

LIVERPOOLFC



Official Liverpool FC Monthly Magazine

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INSIDE:
A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM
JÜRGEN AND THE TEAM

HENDO

LEADING BY EXAMPLE
IN LIVERPOOL FC'S
NEW GOLDEN AGE



VINTAGE FOOTIE MAG FEST!

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new balance.

Western
Union WU

AXA

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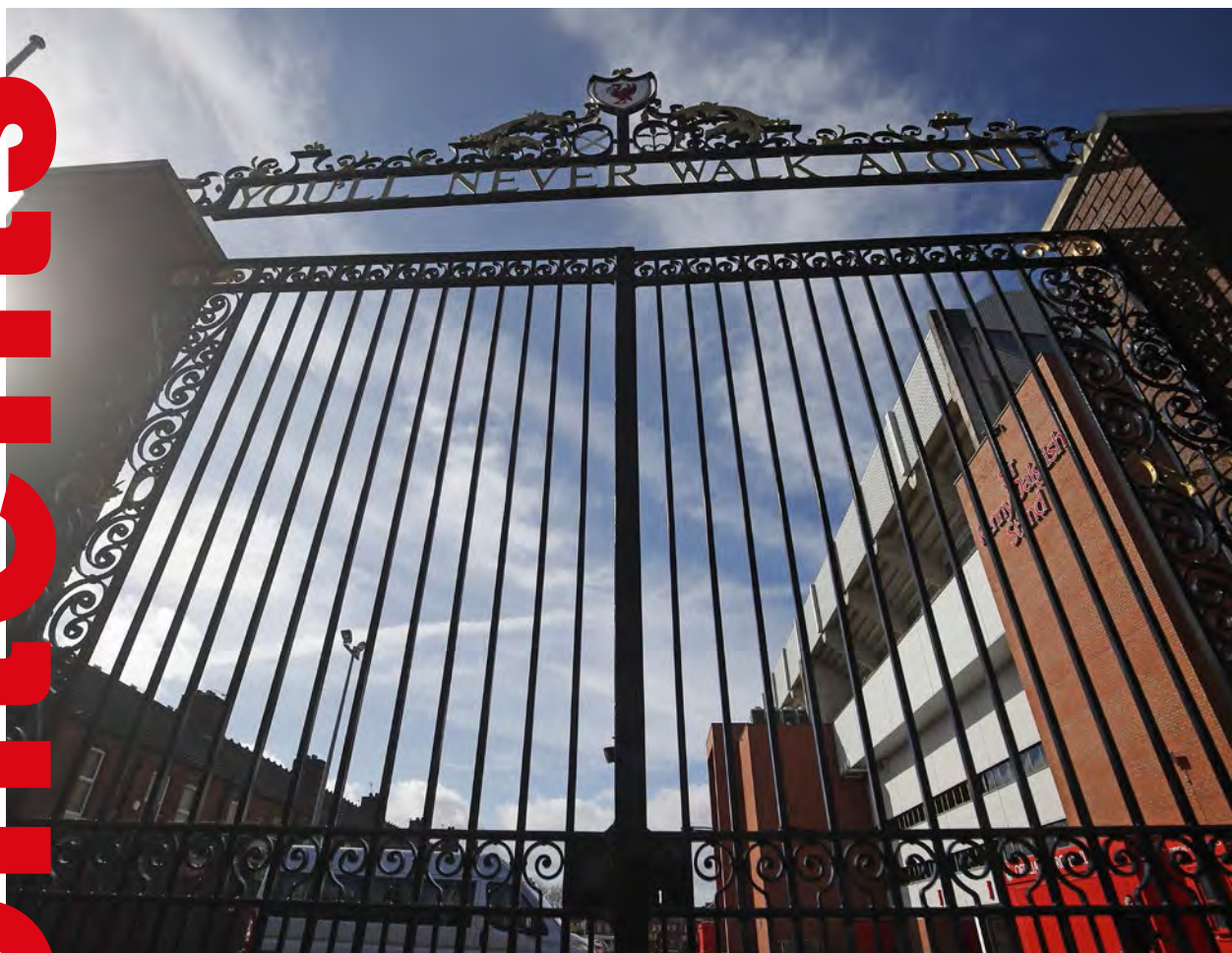


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Reach Sport

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"LET'S TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER"

That special message from the boss, and how the players have paid tribute to a courageous health service in these challenging times

On the day it was announced that the football season was being suspended due to the coronavirus outbreak, Jürgen Klopp recorded a message for Liverpool FC supporters.

You can read it in full on liverpoolfc.com, but his underlying point was crystal clear: "The message from the team to our supporters is only about your well-being. Put your health first. Don't take any risk. Think about the vulnerable in our society and act where possible with compassion for them.

"Please look after yourselves and look out for each other."

Since then social-distancing rules and a UK government lockdown has made staying at home the 'new norm'. It will be a while before we see the Mighty Reds play again. Staying safe is the priority, remaining patient a necessity – messages that the Liverpool manager emphasised in a more recent interview with the club's official website.

"We said it now often enough, and I think everybody knows, football is not the most important thing in the world, 100 per cent not. In this moment it's clear what is. But the only way to get football back as soon as possible, if that's what the people want, the more disciplined we are now the earlier we will get, piece by piece by piece, our life back. That's how it is. There is no other solution in the moment, nobody has another solution.

"We have to be disciplined by ourselves, we have to keep the distance to other people. We can still do some things, not a lot, but we have to just calm down a little bit with things.

"Yes, outside the economy has to carry on – that will start again. But the lower the number will be when we go out again – the number of people infected, that's what I understand – the better it is.

"It will not be like nobody anymore after the next few weeks but the curve will flatten, that's the most important thing. We have to give our people in the hospitals, our doctors, the chance to treat the people with serious issues with full concentration. We have to give people time to build ventilators, we have to give people time to find solutions.

"There will be a moment when other smart people find a vaccine for the virus. But until then, we have to make sure we do the best possible for all the people out there.

"You hear now more and more it's not only the elderly and weaker – it's not only that, there are younger people involved who can die of it as well. It's not about that, it's about just...show heart and a bit of sensibility and do the right thing.

"Stay at home as long as we have to. And then at one point we will play football again as well, 100 per cent.

"I couldn't wish more for it because of a few really good reasons, how you can imagine. I can't wait actually, but even I have to be disciplined and I try to be as much as I can."

In the meantime, Jürgen has been doing the same things as most of us – staying in touch with everyone via his smartphone: "I just miss everybody. We miss each other, we really like working together.

"We have a lot of contact with WhatsApp groups and phone calls, FaceTime, whatever. So we see each other a lot but not like we want to or like we are used to, but they still do an incredible job."

Klopp's Liverpool team are built around togetherness and he believes that working together now away from football is crucial to defeat coronavirus and return to a normal way of life.

"In the future, in 10, 20, 30, 40 years, if we look back and then the conclusion is that this was the period when the world showed the biggest solidarity, the biggest love, the biggest friendship or whatever, that would be great, that would be really great.

"So in the moment when you go through a phase or a period like this it's not possible to see that, especially not for the people who are ill, but there will be a point in the future, a moment in the future when we look back and hopefully then we can see it like this.

"Because that's the solution for it – we all have to be disciplined, we all have to work together, we all have to take care of each other.

"That's the solution for this problem."



THANK YOU

On 26 March this year Liverpool Football Club paid tribute to health workers around the world in a special video.

"Myself, the staff and all the players of LFC would like to take this opportunity to deliver a message to say thank you to all the incredible people who work in the health services, all the health workers – if you want – out there," began Jürgen Klopp.

"It's unbelievable what you are doing, and behalf of all of us from

LFC, I would like to say thank you. Or, how we would say in Germany, *vielen dank.*"

Players and staff from both Liverpool's first-team and LFC Women then followed Klopp with their own video thank you messages, recorded in their own languages, to remind everyone that 'Strength Is Unity' during these testing times for the NHS and all health workers around the globe.









DOUBLE TROUBLE!

There's nothing **Sadio Mané** and **Naby Keita** like better than winding each other up – as well as telling us how much they love being team-mates at Liverpool →



YOU BOTH COME FROM WEST AFRICA, HOW DID YOU HELP EACH OTHER TO SETTLE IN TO THIS TEAM?

SADIO: When I first heard that Naby was coming to Liverpool I was really happy for him because I've been here for a few years before, so I know he wouldn't have any problems or anything because not only me but the whole team are like a family here at Liverpool, helping each other.

You do things together which is really important for any new player from the first day that they're part of the family, and I was just really happy for him.

At the same time he made a good choice because, yeah, we just won the Champions League and were strong in the Premier League. It was just easy for him!

NABY: I think that Sadio helped me a lot because he's someone who likes to help. He is now becoming one of the elder statesmen here, and he's somebody who gives me advice, especially during training where we work together a lot every day, and that has helped me.

He passes on his experience and he shares that with me so I'm on the right road with him, and he gives a lot of advice and I listen to him.

NABY, YOU HAVE SUFFERED WITH INJURIES THIS SEASON – HAS SADIO HELPED YOU THROUGH IT?

NABY: Of course, the team and the manager have helped me and my family calls me every day too. I think when you have an injury it's never easy, but you have to hope you can keep going in training and come back stronger.

YOUR ENGLISH IS VERY GOOD, NABY – DO YOU LEARN IT FROM SADIO?

NABY: Yes, sometimes I understand him more than the other players.

SADIO: You should say I'm your teacher!

NABY: He is my teacher...sometimes [both laugh].

NABY, WHEN YOU SCORED YOUR FIRST LIVERPOOL GOAL, SADIO WAS THE FIRST ONE TO RUN TO YOU, SO WILL YOU DESIGN A SPECIAL CELEBRATION TOGETHER ONE DAY?

NABY: Maybe we'll win the Premier League in the last game and we will do an African dance together! But now we're serious, we're not joking – we will be focused for the whole of the games.

IT'S SAID THAT SADIO IS SHY, BUT HE IS FULL OF DESIRE ON THE PITCH. AS HIS BEST FRIEND IN THIS TEAM, IN YOUR OPINION WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS HE?

NABY: He is humble but he's also somebody who likes having fun with people. Everybody likes him because of the way he carries himself.

Personally I've known him since I was at Salzburg and he is somebody who wants to progress and who is open to everybody, not just to me because it's Naby and I'm African. No, no, no – he's like that with everyone. What I like about him is he always wants to improve and that's why I like being with him.

WE HAVE SEEN HOW FOOTBALL BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER – HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BEING SOMEONE WHO HELPS TO BRING CULTURES TOGETHER?

SADIO: I think that the world should be full of joy, fraternity and love for each other. As a football player we should always be a role-model for those people who follow us, for the young. They are always watching us and we have to be an example in a good way because it's what the world needs.

We're all human beings and we should learn to share things

and help each other to move forward to change and especially to make this world better.

NABY: I think the most important thing is we need to be united. It's not easy but we have to give a good example on and off the field. For example, off the field we go to the mosque to pray and give a good example. If the people see that, I think you'll understand because it is the same for all human beings.

SADIO: Football has become a global sport followed by the whole world. I think it's something that can change people's lives. As footballers it's important to give our best on the field to make people feel proud.

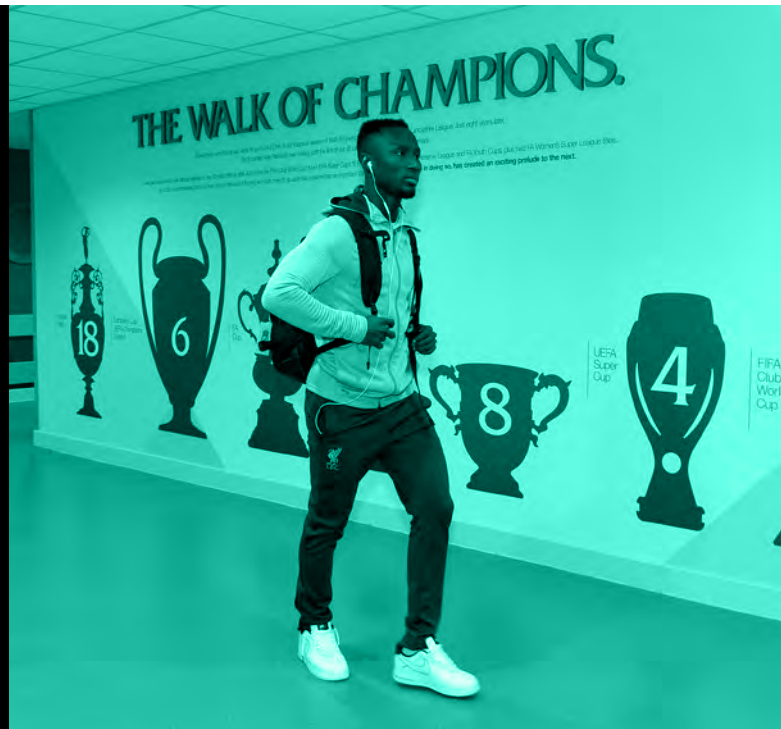
NABY, IS SADIO GOING TO BE THE FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR?

NABY: Yes, of course. If he continues to work the way he is going now, why not?

HOW WOULD YOU BOTH DEFINE JÜRGEN KLOPP IN YOUR OWN WORDS?

SADIO: He is somebody that is full of life, he is somebody who makes us all responsible as players, which is very important for a player on the field.

SADIO IS SOMEONE WHO LIKES TO HELP AND HE'S GIVEN ME LOTS OF ADVICE SINCE I'VE BEEN HERE, ESPECIALLY DURING TRAINING WHERE WE WORK A LOT TOGETHER





He is a coach who knows how to handle you off the field, too. Sometimes he can be hard with his players but it's for positive reasons and that's helped us a lot on the field. It is quite impressive, in fact, if you got to know him to understand all of that.

NABY: Yes and he will always defend his players because for him all the players are the same. There is no difference to him. He's always there to explain things to you, such as if you haven't played the best in a game, which is hard for coaches to do.

But that's a choice he has to make and it helps us fight harder on the training field to push hard so you can be playing at the weekend.

He communicates with us all equally and that's what I really like about him. During training he will stop you and give you advice and explanations...

SADIO: But if you lose the ball, he can certainly shout "Naby! Naby!"

NABY: But that's quite normal and he would also give you the same treatment!

SADIO: Yes, but I just give this little look [does comic glare].

HOW HAS HE HELPED YOU BOTH IMPROVE AS PLAYERS? ARE THERE ANY LITTLE THINGS THAT HE HAS DONE?

SADIO: I believe it's the fact that he makes you responsible on and off the field. I think that football is in the head but then you've got to transfer that to the body. He's always there to be able to give you confidence. Overall for a player it's all about confidence.

NABY: Yes, overall he is a coach that gives you confidence and he is the motivating factor before a match, but you've also got to be motivated on the field.

When you see him on the sideline and you're on the field, it's as if he's playing with you and that gives you a lot of desire to do better. He's always there for his players, he's almost like a best friend but he's a coach who can communicate with all his players.

NABY, HOW HAS HE HELPED YOU DEVELOP AS A PLAYER?

NABY: When I arrived I had to try and settle in and be able to integrate with the team. I respect his choices, so I was there to work every day. He is somebody who is able to give you explanations on the field, and that helps a lot and when you

**FOOTBALL IS IN THE HEAD
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IT'S ALL ABOUT CONFIDENCE**

play of course you don't ever doubt yourself. That's coaching and he sees everything.

I think I have now improved a lot, apart from my injuries which have kept me out of several matches. He's somebody who communicates a lot and a coach who explains everything to all his players.

HOW BIG A FACTOR WAS KLOPP IN YOU SIGNING FOR LIVERPOOL – WAS HE THE KEY REASON?

NABY: Yes, I made the right choice coming here. I have won trophies and that was one of my dreams, to win trophies and to grow myself as a player.

I'm always trying to improve and try to get over those injuries to help the team improve, I think of my place here and I work hard to be available to the coach.

This season I think he has increased the level of concentration and the amount of work we do and also the desire, because last season we were just pipped to it, and this season we're doing everything that we need to do.

We work hard every day and we are seeing the results. It's about work and desire.





LIVERPOOL HAVE BEEN FLYING IN THE LEAGUE THIS SEASON – WHAT'S IT LIKE BEING ON THE INSIDE?

SADIO: You need time to understand it. It's quite exceptional to play for Liverpool, historically it's impressive and we haven't won this Premier League trophy which we really want to, which is close to the heart of the fans.

They're mad about this trophy and I think we've got every chance of lifting the trophy, but in the Premier League you never know. And if we finish the season by lifting the trophy, it will be exceptional for the club and for the fans and for the players.

IT'S BEEN SAID BY SOME THAT THIS IS THE PROBABLY THE BEST TEAM EVER SEEN IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE...

SADIO: When you say 'of all time', that's something given the teams that included players like Thierry Henry and Ryan Giggs.

NABY: I was only small then.

SADIO: Perhaps you weren't even born then! Yes, it's very impressive but the objective has always been to win the Premier League. Hearing things like that is a little bonus, but the most important thing once football resumes is making sure that we win the league.

DID YOU FEEL ANY PRESSURE AFTER MAKING SUCH A GOOD START?

NABY: I think that we as players and the coach have done a little bit but only because of what we demand of ourselves. But all the team knows that it isn't over yet, so it's about keeping the concentration, the motivation and keeping a level head right to the end.

SADIO: You don't feel pressure, Naby!

NABY: But I can't have any pressure now! I'm 25 not 18...

SADIO: I'll tell you one thing, when you play for Liverpool you always have the pressure to win matches which are coming along. So he's got pressure – he's got pressure for sure!

NABY, HOW DO YOU FEEL THE SEASON HAS GONE FOR YOU?

NABY: I feel very good apart from the little injuries I have, which I'm trying to control. I'm a professional, and in football as I understand it, there are difficult moments. But you mustn't drop your shoulders, you need to carry on working and that's how you win.

SADIO: I don't think it's been easy since he arrived what with the time needed to settle in as well as with the injuries, but he's working hard every day in training to get to where he needs to be.



THE MOST IMPORTANT
THING ONCE FOOTBALL
RESUMES IS MAKING
SURE THAT WE WIN THE
PREMIER LEAGUE





NABY: Don't forget the passes that I made to you – don't forget those!

THE SETTLING-IN PERIOD IS IMPORTANT ISN'T IT, AND DID SADIO HELP TOO? WHAT IS HE LIKE – A BIG BROTHER?

NABY: Yes of course, it's always useful to have somebody to help you on arriving at a team that you don't know. But I felt though I was at home with this team, it's like a big family. Now I feel as if I've been here five years or so. At the beginning I didn't speak English very well but now I get by.

SADIO: Yes, now you can speak English [smirks].

NABY: No, no!

SADIO: I will tell you a little anecdote. So, you speak English, Naby? Well a few weeks ago he was in preparation for a match, having his breakfast and one of the backroom staff guys said – and remember that Naby speaks English – "Of course you are just recovering from an injury, so we're going to try and do a run round the field."

But it was obviously in a Scouse accent, "We're going to go round the field and afterwards we'll have specific treatment." And Naby said: "Yeah, yeah, I like eggs. I like eggs, yes. I like omelettes."

NABY: It's a lie! It's a lie!

SADIO: He was having his breakfast and he said: "You're ready to go and do a circuit" and he said: "Yes, yes, I like my omelettes." So, I said do you understand English, Naby and he said: "Yes, I like my eggs." It's true!

DOES IT GIVE YOU A BIT OF PLEASURE OF BEING THE 'OLDER BROTHER' IN A WAY AND DID YOU HAVE SOMEBODY HERE FOR YOU LIKE THAT WHEN YOU SIGNED FOR LIVERPOOL?

SADIO: I think that where I was lucky was that I spoke a little bit of English before, and also I knew the coach before arriving here. There were players like Dejan Lovren, Mamadou Sakho and Simon Mignolet who spoke French with me, so it wasn't a problem. As Naby says, it's a team which is really like a family so that went very well for me.

WHO WILL BE THE NEXT AFRICAN PLAYER OF THE YEAR?

NABY: Me, it will be me!

SADIO: Naby, what have I told you? I have told you that Mohamed Salah has won it twice, one after the other. I was there, I saw it! Me next. But now you are 25 years old so you've got time to be the player of the year. Then when you're old enough I'll let you have it!

NABY: I disagree with you – next season it's me!



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**WE ARE LIVERPOOL.
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SIR BOB IN BRONZE

With the Reds so dominant in the league, it felt right that in early February 2020 a bronze statue was unveiled at Anfield to celebrate the life and legacy of Liverpool FC's most successful manager, Bob Paisley. The sculpture immortalises a famous image of Bob, carrying the injured Emlyn Hughes off the pitch. Standing eight feet tall, it was designed to sit at the right height to enable fans to take photos while visiting Paisley Square.



RED SKY AT NIGHT

An evocative Spion Kop backdrop as Liverpool made their return to Anfield for the first time since being crowned champions of the world. As a one-off in the Premier League, the Reds were allowed to debut the gold FIFA champions badge. The logo would also adorn the team's shirts for remaining matches in the UEFA Champions League and FA Cup.





COMMERCIAL BREAK

The Reds' creative hangout for club partner Chaokoh has proved a big hit with millions of views around the globe. In no particular order, here's a **top 10** of LFC-related commercials



BUT WITH COCONUTS...

The Reds really did almost 'break the internet' with their advert for the club's new coconut-water product partner, Chaokoh.

As they racked their brains in an Anfield meeting-room for inspirational marketing ideas, skipper Jordan Henderson and Andy Robertson smashed their roles while Joel Matip will go down in Anfield legend for his "fun facts."

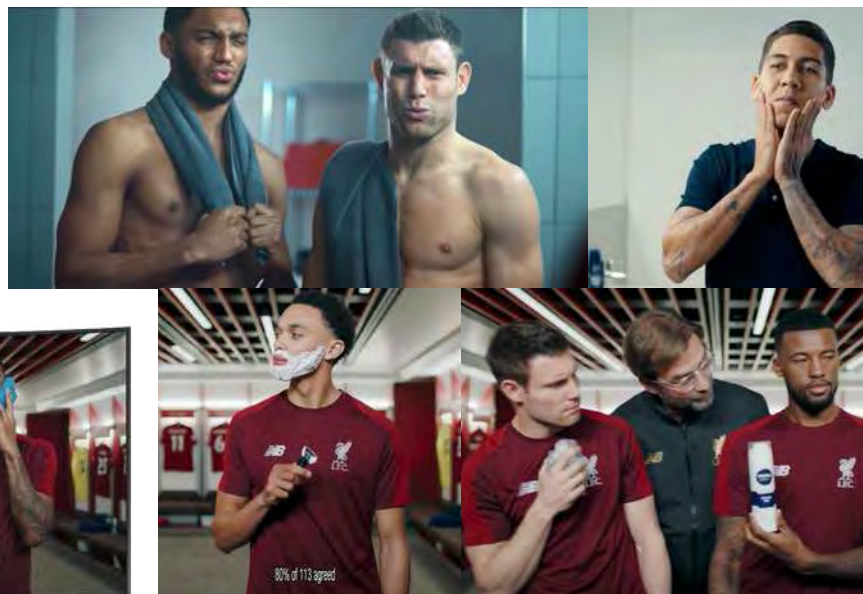
Best supporting roles in no particular order: Bobby 'Knowledge' Firmino, Dejan Lovren and Curtis 'My goal but with a coconut instead of the ball' Jones.

No wonder it went viral.

CLOSE SHAVES

Several Reds have been enlisted to help promote the club's official grooming supplier Nivea and their product ranges.

From commentator Clive Tyldesley describing Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain as being disappointed with "his poor shaving performance" while Joe Gomez and James Milner watched on, to Milly, Gini Wijnaldum and Trent Alexander-Arnold being joined by boss Jürgen Klopp in a cameo role to push the firm's sensitive gel, the ads have proven particularly popular with Reds fans.



90 MINUTES OF SHEER HELL

A classic from 1990 with Reds legend John Barnes proclaiming that "after 90 minutes of sheer hell, you're going to get thirsty" before explaining exactly what the word 'isotonic' means. John capped the performance with a typically well-placed left-footed clip into a metal bin, disposing of the empty can with trademark aplomb.



ACCRINGTON STANLEY?

An 80s classic from the Milk Marketing Board featuring two young Liverpool fans played by Carl Rice and Kevin Staine.

One tells the other that star Reds forward Ian Rush would only have been good enough to play for Accrington, then a non-league club, if he didn't drink milk.

"Accrington Stanley – who are they?" asks his friend. The answer: "Exactly."

Cricket favourite David Lloyd, a non-executive director of Accrington, has said that the advert helped make more than £10,000 for the club. The ad was reprised for Sport Relief a few years ago featuring Rushie himself alongside Robbie Fowler and Steve McManaman as the kids.





SUMMER ESSENTIALS

EXCLUSIVE TO LFC

[LIVERPOOLFC.COM/STORE](https://liverpoolfc.com/store)

KEV AND OUR 'ENRY

Kevin Keegan was probably British football's first superstar and so was a prime target for television companies wanting him to be associated with their brands.

At the height of his Seventies stardom he joined forces with boxing ace Henry Cooper for an advert to promote Brut 33 deodorant.

The pair are filmed undergoing a rigorous workout before Henry asks 'Mighty Mouse': "Are you trying to muscle in on my act?" Kev replies: "Yeah, why don't you throw in the towel, Henry?"

Keegan was also recruited for a public-information film about the Green Cross Code, explaining to a young lad how to cross the road safely in the streets around Anfield.



JASON'S HAIR-RAISING EXPERIENCE

Jason McAteer received plenty of stick from his team-mates for his 1997 advert for an anti-dandruff shampoo from the Vidal Sassoon salon range.

Jason knows you can have it all," says the voiceover as the Irish international is shown whimsically throwing a ball in the air and running his hands through his flowing locks.



FAIR DINKUM

An Eighties commercial promoting Australian beer Tooheys. Then Reds midfielder Craig Johnston is shown running around the streets of Liverpool in all weathers to the backdrop of a ditty performed by an Australian singer containing lyrics such as, "At his feet the ball is magic and he trips the light fantastic, and it's not just any fool who can play for Liverpool" accompanied by footage of some

of his best moments in a red shirt.

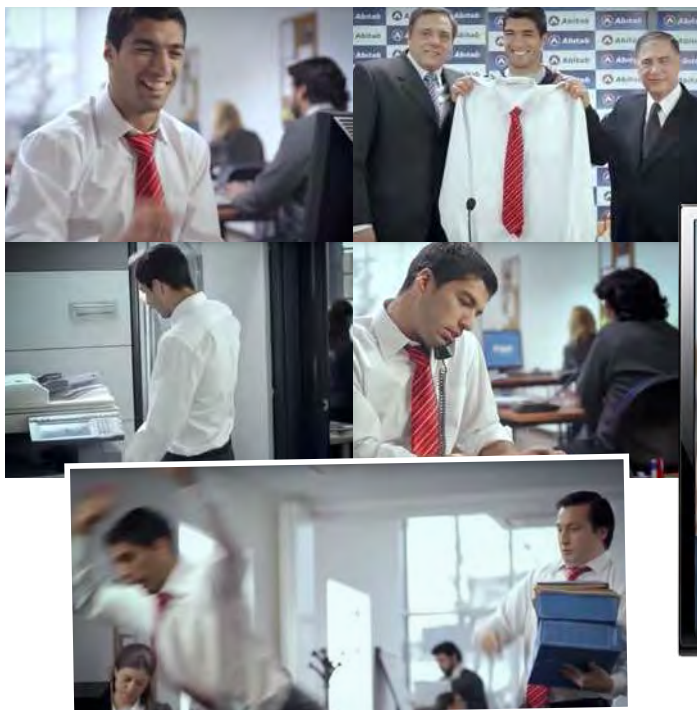
After expending such energy, 'Johnno' relaxes at the end of the day with a thirst-quenching bottle of Tooheys while wearing an LFC sweatshirt.



DON'T PHONE US

Ex-Reds target man Peter Crouch produces another solid performance off the field as he helps Carphone Warehouse explain how easy it is to switch mobile phone networks.

"I thought I knew a thing or two about switching contracts," says Crouchie, who represented ten English clubs including the Reds before switching roles to the TV and radio studios.



THE OFFICE STARRING LUIS SUAREZ

Office worker Luis Suarez? Now that's really stretching it. In an advert for Abitab, a business-management consultancy in Uruguay, the former Liverpool no7 dons a shirt and tie but soon starts losing it with his colleagues, miscellaneous office equipment and an empty coffee-pot before winning everyone over with a charm offensive!



DUBAI'S THE LIMIT

Michael Owen and a contender for the ad with the biggest cringe-factor. In a promotional film for Dubai, our former goal-machine buckles up and pilots a helicopter across the territory, leading us to Dubai Sports City – and an apology for ex-Ryder Cup captain Sam Torrance as he buzzes his tee-off.



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WesternUnion







PUT YOUR SHIRT ON IT

Mohamed Salah had never scored against Manchester United before the sides met at Anfield in January and still hadn't done so after 92 minutes of the Premier League clash against the Red Devils. But by minute 93 he had changed all that, latching onto a superb clearance from Alisson and slotting home to seal a 2-0 victory in front of a buoyant Kop. The fans responded by breaking into a rendition of 'And now you're gonna believe us, we're going to win the league!' for the first time.



NOW THE



IS IS A ST

With three-quarters of the campaign complete,

how much can you remember about it so far?

Put your powers of recall to the test





JUNE

- 1** Sepp van den Berg was the first of Liverpool's four summer signings, but from which club did he make the switch?
- 2** Jürgen Klopp celebrated his birthday this month but how old did the boss become?
- 3** Which former Academy graduate, who played twice for Liverpool's senior side, joined Sporting Lisbon for a reported fee of £7 million?

JULY

- 4** The Reds' first senior friendly came at Prenton Park as they defeated Tranmere Rovers 6-0 – who opened the scoring that night?
- 5** Jürgen Klopp's men played three games in the USA on their summer tour. At which historic venue did they play out a 2-2 draw with Sporting Lisbon?



- 6** Liverpool completed the month with a 3-1 win over Lyon in Geneva but who scored our final goal?

AUGUST

- 7** Which Red was on target in normal-time of the Charity Shield opener with Manchester City at Wembley?
- 8** Can you name the two goalkeepers who signed after Simon Mignolet's switch to Bruges was confirmed?
- 9** Who scored the first goal of the new Premier League season?



SEPTEMBER

- 10** Liverpool broke a club record with a 15th consecutive victory when they won 2-1 at Chelsea. Which two players scored for the Reds?
- 11** A handful of players made their first-team debuts in the 2-0 Carabao Cup win at MK Dons. Can you name all five?
- 12** Who scored his first goal for Liverpool in that victory at Milton Keynes?





OCTOBER

13 Japanese international Takumi Minamino scored for FC Salzburg in a Champions League tie at Anfield. He joined the Reds in January but what was the reported fee?

14 A late penalty helped Liverpool beat Leicester City. Who kept his head to convert the spot-kick?

15 "Being a local lad, it's always been my dream to get an appearance at Anfield. To get an assist to give us a chance and then to score a penalty is just a dream-come-true." Who said these words after the dramatic penalty shoot-out win over Arsenal following an astonishing 5-5 draw?

NOVEMBER

16 Who had a goal ruled out by VAR in the 2-1 win at Aston Villa for an 'armpit offside'?

17 Sadio Mane put the seal on a 3-1 defeat of Manchester City at Anfield with a far-post header. Who provided the cross for the goal?

18 Trent Alexander-Arnold provided assists for both goals in a 2-1 defeat of Brighton at Anfield. Who bagged a brace for the Reds?





DECEMBER

19 Who scored his only league goal of 2019/20 so far in the 5-2 derby defeat of Everton?

20 Which team did the Reds beat in the semi-final of the FIFA Club World Championship in Qatar?

21 Who opened the scoring for Liverpool in that match?

JANUARY

22 Curtis Jones scored the winner as a young Liverpool team defeated Everton in the FA Cup third round, but who provided the assist?

23 Mo Salah wrapped up victory against Manchester United with Liverpool's second goal from an Alisson Becker assist. It meant there is only one current Premier League team Salah has not scored against for Liverpool – which one?

24 As well as providing an assist in that win over United, Alisson also kept a clean-sheet. That made it how many successive shut-outs in the Premier League for our Brazilian no1?



FEBRUARY

25 Liverpool hammered Southampton 4-0 at Anfield in their first game of the month. Who provided a hat-trick of assists?

26 Who managed a young Reds side to victory in an FA Cup fourth-round replay while the senior side were away on the Premier League's first winter-break?

27 Jürgen Klopp made Premier League history when he was presented with the Manager of the Month award (for January). No-one had ever won more monthly awards in a single season but how many times had he now won it during 2019/20?



29 The win over Bournemouth saw Mo make his 100th Premier League appearance for Liverpool. He has scored more top-flight goals than any Red during their first century of league games – but how many?

30 Liverpool bowed out of the Champions League after losing 3-2 to Atletico Madrid after extra-time. What was significant about Roberto Firmino's goal which had put the Reds 2-0 up on the night?

MARCH

28 Mo Salah and Sadio Mane scored in a 2-1 win over Bournemouth that set a new club record of 22 consecutive home league wins. Which two players provided the assists?



ANSWERS

JUNE: 1. PEC Zwolle; 2. He turned 52; 3. Rafael Camacho.

JULY: 4. Nathaniel Clyne; 5. Yankee Stadium, New York; 6. Harry Wilson.

AUGUST: 7. Joel Matip; 8. Adrian and Andy Loneragan; 9. Grant Hanley (own-goal).

SEPTEMBER: 10. Trent Alexander-Arnold and Roberto Firmino; 11. Caiohin Kelele; 12. Ki-Jana Hoever.

OCTOBER: 13. £7.25 million; 14. James Milner; 15. Curtis Jones.

NOVEMBER: 16. Roberto Firmino; 17. Jordan Henderson; 18. Virgil van Dijk.

DECEMBER: 19. Xherdan Shaqiri; 20. Club de Futbol Monterrey; 21. Naby Keita.

JANUARY: 22. Divock Origi; 23. Aston Villa; 24. Seven.

FEBRUARY: 25. Roberto Firmino; 26. Neil Critchley; 27. Five.

MARCH: 28. Sadio Mane and Virgil van Dijk; 29. Mo scored 70 goals; 30. It was his first of the season at Anfield.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?



↑ This is Anfield: give up? Okay, on the opposite page the scoreboard isn't working; and there's an extra groundsman in the Kop-end penalty area; and there's a missing corner flag; and the commentators' gantry is missing; and...the SKD banner has moved.



What's that – you want more hot quiz action? Here are four pairs of near-identical pictures, each with five subtle alterations from the other that we task you to find...



↓ Derby delight: below, there's no white trim on Lallana's sleeve; and LFC is missing on Divock's shorts; and the referee has vanished (oops); and the crest on the Kop roof has moved; and...there's no crest/logo on Sadio's shirt.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?



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↑ Club World Cup kings: on the opposite page Adrian has a larger medal; no pinstripes on Sadio Mane's shirt; 'Qatar' lettering has been reversed on signage; there are now two James Milners, the second to the right of Divock Origi; and there's no squad number on Andy Robbo's shorts.





↓ Joe Gomez at Melwood: a boot is missing top row, second in; boots added third row from bottom, third in; number changed on Joe's kecks; another boot added on third row from bottom, far right; boots bottom row, third from right have changed colour.







THE PAISLEY PATTERN

Words: William Hughes

It's not quite forgotten but it certainly deserves a 40th anniversary tribute: how the Reds retained their league title back in season 1979/80 —→



"It goes back there in the trophy cabinet when we've finished this lap of honour"

Defending a league title is never easy. In the past decade, only the Manchester City team of 2017/18 and 2018/19 has managed it, the latter after they needed an exceptional campaign to hold off the relentless challenge of Jürgen Klopp's Reds.

Forty years ago Bob Paisley's Liverpool side were on their way to retaining the top-flight championship after a tight race with Dave Sexton's Manchester United. Kopites enjoyed celebrating the triumph every bit as much as they should have done and yet, with time, the team's exploits that season have perhaps fallen a little off the radar.

When football historians look back on the all-conquering Liverpool teams of the Seventies they tend to think of Bill Shankly's class of 1972/73 that won the Division One title and the UEFA Cup.

They recall Bob Paisley's side of 1975/76 that matched that achievement, and the one of the following season that landed the league title again and the club's first European Cup.

They think of the 1978/79 team that reclaimed the league crown from Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest, going unbeaten at Anfield throughout the 42-match campaign and conceded just 16 goals while using only 15 players.

So the 1979/80 side's achievement in retaining the title while again going unbeaten on home soil is one which perhaps suffers in comparison because of the exploits of those others.

Yet this was Liverpool's record-breaking 12th league championship and the one that allowed supporters to proudly say that the Redmen were the most successful team in England – a boast of course which they can make again today after Klopp's men won the FIFA World Club Cup in December 2019 to take their major trophy count to 47 in comparison to Manchester United's 45.

Back to 1979 and pre-season had been a relatively quiet affair with the only piece of LFC transfer business being the recruitment of Israeli full-back Avi Cohen from Maccabi Tel Aviv for a fee of £200,000.

Striker Frank McGarvey had been brought in from St Mirren the previous May to bolster the attacking options available to Paisley but the move didn't work out and the Scot failed to break into the Liverpool line-up.

Barely a week before the season started with the regular claiming of the Charity Shield – a 3-1 win over Arsenal at Wembley – Paisley took the hard decision to sanction the sale of one of the club's great servants, Emlyn Hughes, to Wolves.

Young Scottish star Alan Hansen had taken the place of 'Crazy Horse' at centre-half and although Hughes could also deputise for Alan Kennedy at left-back, the arrival of Cohen meant he felt the time was right to move on after twelve-and-a-half seasons at Anfield which had seen him lift the European Cup on two occasions.

The biggest off-field news story around Liverpool FC that summer was the announcement that the club had signed a lucrative one-year shirt-sponsorship deal with Japanese electronics firm Hitachi.

In doing so the Reds became the first club in England to play with a sponsor's logo emblazoned across their shirts. Derby County had signed the first-ever shirt sponsorship deal in 1977 but were only allowed to wear the shirts in pre-season friendlies under Football League rules.

The deal didn't go down well with many Kopites flooding the *Liverpool Echo* with letters of complaint. After the 3-2 defeat at Southampton in which, ironically, the team didn't carry the Hitachi logo (they didn't have a set of yellow shirts with it printed upon) the newspaper's Michael Charters was



Thommo, Razor, Souey and Sir Terence of McDermott

prompted to respond: "Having watched what they call their 'Hitachi kit' in eight games, I can reassure the doubters that you aren't aware of the advertising after a couple of matches.

"The letters become so unobtrusive you don't notice them. That may not please Hitachi, who are paying Liverpool a lot of money to advertise their name, but it is a visual fact."

Another problem for Liverpool was a TV ban on shirt advertising meant they couldn't wear the Hitachi logo in televised matches.

However at the press-conference to announce the deal Reds chairman John Smith said: "We are talking about an industry that is desperately short of money and we are fighting for our existence. In terms of commerce and industry we, at Liverpool, are broke but in football terms we are wealthy.

"From a turnover of £2.4 million last year, Liverpool's profit at the end of the day was a meagre £71,000....this for one of the leading clubs in Europe.

"I think other clubs will follow our lead. We are taking up the cudgels and I believe we will see the day when shirt advertising is allowed in televised games and UEFA competitions."

On the pitch Liverpool made a fairly average start to the season, winning just two of their opening seven games before hitting their stride with a run of ten wins from 11 matches either side of Christmas to put the defending champions back in pole position.

But as the Seventies turned into the Eighties, the Reds started the new decade slowly. Their first league games of the

1980 saw them held 1-1 by Southampton at Anfield before losing for the third time in the league when they went down 1-0 to Coventry City at Highfield Road.

Liverpool still held a two-point advantage over United but the drop-off in form continued when they were beaten 1-0 at new rivals Nottingham Forest in the first leg of the League Cup semi-final three days later, their nemesis John Robertson converting a late penalty.

The Reds responded by returning to the City Ground the following weekend and putting Brian Clough's men out of another competition as goals from Kenny Dalglish and Terry McDermott secured a 2-0 victory in the FA Cup fourth round.

The return to Division One action brought a trip to Carrow Road to face Norwich City. It would prove to be one of the best games of the entire campaign, and it deserves a thorough appraisal, a David Fairclough hat-trick and Justin Fashanu's goal of the season the defining memories of Liverpool's astonishing 5-3 victory.

There was only a minute on the clock when Martin Peters headed the hosts ahead but Fairclough slotted home Sammy Lee's through-ball to make it 1-1 in the fourth minute. The ginger-haired attacker then put Liverpool ahead 14 minutes later after a superb 60-yard run and pass from Alan Hansen teed him up.

Kevin Reeves headed home in the 33rd minute to make it 2-2 at the interval and it stayed that way until 75 minutes when Fairclough completed his only hat-trick as a Liverpool player.

However Norwich equalised again when Fashanu scored a stunner six minutes later. Controlling the ball with his back to



Kenny: "See ya"



Hitachi: visible but unobtrusive



goal 25 yards out, he swivelled and fired an unstoppable volley past Ray Clemence. Three-three!

The strike won the BBC's Goal of the Season competition that season. Forty years later, in February 2020, it was honoured by Norwich fans again before the Premier League home fixture with Liverpool, with a giant rainbow banner of Fashanu, the first professional footballer to come out as gay, unfurled before kick-off.

Back to 1980, and Liverpool finally settled that truly memorable encounter thanks to Dalglish's 88th-minute strike and another from Jimmy Case a minute later.

By the Monday morning, though, it wasn't the result that was making headlines but Kevin Keegan's shock return from SV Hamburg to join Southampton.

Liverpool's patchy form continued throughout February with their bid to win a first League Cup stalling after a 1-1 draw with Forest in the semi-final second leg at Anfield.

Then Bobby Robson's impressive Ipswich Town picked up a league point in front of the Kop before Liverpool suffered another away defeat, this time at Wolves.

Even so, there was a saying in the Seventies that one of the first signs of spring was Liverpool disappearing over the horizon, and the Reds duly put together a run of five straight wins in the league, starting with a 2-1 victory at Goodison Park.

Bob Paisley's side also reached the last four of the FA Cup with a 1-0 win at Tottenham Hotspur in their quarter-final at White Hart Lane. Midfielder Terry McDermott grabbed the only goal with a long-range piledriver that almost ripped the net off.

Terry Mac would go on to become the first ever player to be named PFA Player of the Year and Football Writers' Footballer of the Year in the same season. He was at his all-action best and his eleven goals (16 in total) were a crucial factor in Liverpool's league success.

A return to Tottenham for a league outing at the end of the month saw the Reds suffer a 2-0 defeat as a Glenn Hoddle penalty and a goal from John Pratt gave the home side the points.

Arsenal, FA Cup, bring supplies



Liverpool's lead at the top was still four points and a tense Tuesday-night win over Stoke City at Anfield thanks to a first-half strike from Dalglish meant the Reds then headed to Manchester United with a six point advantage over their arch-rivals, albeit having played a game more.

Paisley's squad knew a victory at Old Trafford would virtually sew up the title, leaving the Red Devils eight points adrift with only a possible 14 left to play for.

Liverpool played well on the day, dominating possession and it came as no surprise when Dalglish opened the scoring in the 14th minute after giving his Scotland team-mate Gordon McQueen the slip.



Goals goals goals

One for the Spion Kop



However, United equalised six minutes later after left-back Alan Kennedy dramatically pulled up with a damaged hamstring as winger Steve Coppell took him on down the right. Ray Clemence fumbled Coppell's cross and winger Mickey Thomas equalised from one yard out. And despite Liverpool's domination it was the home side who nicked a 65th-minute winner when Jimmy Greenhoff headed home a Ray Wilkins corner to keep the title-race alive.

The Reds returned to winning ways a week later when they saw off Derby County 3-0 at Anfield. There was a rare strike from full-back Colin Irwin, deputising for the injured Kennedy and an own-goal by the Rams' Keith Osgood either side of another strike from in-form striker David Johnson.

The FA Cup now intervened and threatened to throw the Reds off course in their bid for a 12th league title. The semi-final tie with Terry Neill's Arsenal turned into an epic and Paisley would surely have bitten off the hand of anyone suggesting a penalty shoot-out solution rather than fixture congestion.

The tie with the Gunners would need four matches to separate the teams and it ultimately ended in more cup frustration.

Dinamo Tbilisi had ended Liverpool's hopes of a third European Cup in October and after losing in the semis of the League Cup to Nottingham Forest, the Reds now sampled defeat at the hands of Arsenal as midfielder Brian Talbot's goal in a third replay at Highfield Road saw his side through to the final against West Ham United.

As so often happens, the Reds also faced the Gunners in a league game in the midst of the cup saga. The meeting of the two teams at Anfield was their third game in a week and again ended all-square, this time Talbot striking late on to cancel out Dalglish's first-half opener.

This meant that United had now closed the gap at the top to a single point although they now only had three games to play while Liverpool had four. The Reds' vastly superior goal-difference was probably worth an extra point.

The top two won their next games. United defeated Aston Villa 2-1 at Old Trafford thanks to a brace from Scotland centre-forward Joe Jordan, while Liverpool completed a league double with a 2-0 win at Stoke City with a goal in each half from the Davids, Johnson and Fairclough.

United clinched another 2-1 home win in their penultimate fixture, this time against Coventry City thanks to a double from midfielder Sammy McLroy on the same afternoon that the Reds were held to a goalless stalemate by Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park.



Full houses to watch the defending champs



The teams were now level on 58 points but Paisley's men had two games remaining to United's one. And with that goal-difference of plus-49 compared to the Red Devils' plus-32 keeping Liverpool top, it all meant that a home win over Aston Villa would clinch the championship...unless United went to Elland Road and put 20 or so goals past Leeds!

Liverpool's FA Cup extravaganza with Arsenal – the longest semi-final in the tournament's history – had concluded less than 48 hours earlier, but Paisley was focused on what his predecessor as Reds boss Bill Shankly had famously described as the 'bread and butter' of the league.

"The FA Cup might be the showpiece competition but the league is the big one," he said. "Anyone in football worth his salt wants a championship medal and it's always been more important to me."

In the event, Leeds won their game against Manchester United 2-0 in Yorkshire while the Reds enjoyed an afternoon of celebration at Anfield. For the second successive season, they won the title by comprehensively seeing off Villa in L4.

David Johnson put the Reds into an early lead which should have settled nerves but an own-goal from Cohen left things in the balance. The popular Israeli then made amends by popping up in attack early in the second half to fire the Reds back in front with Paisley leading the plaudits. "It proves just how versatile Avi really is," he later said.

Johnson then made it 3-1 with a spectacular strike. "Ronnie Moran had a go at me for not scoring enough goals with my left foot. I lashed one and it hit the post and shot across into the net," he explained afterwards.

It was Johnson's best goalscoring season as a Liverpool player. The former Everton striker had established himself alongside Kenny Dalglish a year earlier and the pair formed a powerful partnership with 'Doc' netting 21 league goals (27 in total) as Paisley's side clinched back-to-back titles.

His haul included goals against Everton and Manchester United and he hit doubles on five occasions, including this brace in the title-clincher against Villa.

A late own-goal by Villa defender Noel Blake made it 4-1 and the glittering trophy was carried out of the tunnel and on to the pitch by David Fairclough and Alan Kennedy. The victorious squad were joined by Paisley in embarking on a lap of honour as they applauded the supporters who in turn provided their own rapturous salute.

And so Bob's mighty Reds made a successful defence of their Division One crown and were able, for a few weeks at least, to bask in the glory of a 12th league championship and their fifth in a decade.



Annie Road ecstasy

Paisley knew how much the season had challenged his side and he was rightly proud of their endeavours. In the club's 'official annual' in 1981 he wrote: "It has been a very demanding season and with the problems we have had to overcome it's been a good one."

"In my opinion the football we played in the middle of the season has not been bettered by any Liverpool team in my experience."

"When you are involved in a marathon series of matches as we were against Nottingham Forest and Arsenal it is a tremendous mental drain and it affects players."

"Despite the fact that we lost in the semi-finals of both League and FA Cups we can look back on the season with satisfaction and it was pleasing to see lads like Sammy Lee, Colin Irwin and Avi Cohen respond when they were thrown into the team near the end."

"At the end of the day we have won the League in the right manner...winning more matches than anyone else, scoring more goals and conceding the fewest."



The Reds received their trophy from Bob Lord, the League's senior vice-president ahead of Ray Clemence's testimonial against Anderlecht the week after their final league game at Middlesbrough.

And then, as was 'the Liverpool Way' in those heady days, the shimmering silverware was taken back to its familiar home in the Anfield trophy room.





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“NEVER BACK AGAINST THIS LAD”

That's what Roy Keane told Jamie Carragher about Jordan Henderson
eight years ago, and it's fair to say the skipper has
proved that his old manager was right

Words: David Cottrell





NB

14



L.F.C.

One thing you probably already know about Jordan Henderson, and another you might not. The first: his captain's column, thoughtful and savvy, is one of the highlights of each Liverpool FC matchday programme.

The second: like the manager Jürgen Klopp, he'd prefer not to have his picture splashed over his page or across the programme's front cover. It's not about him – it's about the team, the club, the fans. Just as it was for the man he succeeded as skipper, Steven Gerrard.

Even so, those three pyrotechnic trophy-lifts over the last ten months – Champions League, Super Cup, World Club Cup – are the defining on-field images of this time, this moment, this Liverpool, and as much a culmination of his own personal journey over the last nine years as that of the club overall.

Around 12 months ago, after Henderson had come off the bench, scored and inspired the Reds to a crucial Friday-night win at Southampton, the manager called him, simply, "a brilliant player. He's our skipper, he's a fantastic character. If I had to write a book about him it would be 500 pages.

"The most difficult job in the last 500 years of football was to replace Steven Gerrard. In the mind of the people it was like: if it's not Stevie, then it's not good enough. And he has dealt with that outstandingly well, so he can be really proud. He is a very important part of our team."

This is Hendo's ninth season at Liverpool and his fifth with the armband. Still only 29, he's the longest-serving senior player at the club, having been signed by Kenny Dalglish in the summer of 2011.

Let's cast our minds back to that very different era. Liverpool had just finished sixth in the Premier League table, behind

champions Manchester United, runners-up Chelsea, emergent Manchester City and North London powers Arsenal and Tottenham. In the dugout the Reds had replaced Roy Hodgson with Dalglish halfway through the campaign.

The previous season, 2009/10, they'd been seventh and Rafael Benitez had left a club whose distressed fanbase, it's not too melodramatic to say, were fighting for its soul.

In came Fenway Sports Group in October 2010. In came Kenny in January 2011. And that June in came a fresh-faced 20-year-old from Sunderland, which one full England cap, for a reported fee of £20 million. Joining him at the official press conference were fellow new signings Stewart Downing, Charlie Adam and Brazilian goalkeeper Doni.

"Henderson," reported the BBC, "will provide competition in a midfield which already boasts internationals Steven Gerrard, Lucas Leiva, Raul Meireles and Christian Poulsen." This felt like a team in transition.

Just recently former Reds team-mate Jamie Carragher interviewed Jordan for his own *Greatest Game* podcast and recalled a chat he'd had back then with Roy Keane, the midfielder's old boss at Sunderland, not long after his move to Anfield.

"I will never forget it. I'd never met Roy Keane before and I was doing the TV with him and he said, 'Never, ever back against that lad, Jordan Henderson – he will be fine'. It always stuck with me, that.

"Obviously you played the same position and even I looked up to him – Manchester United captain, very successful – and I thought, 'That will do me'."



Henderson scored his first goal for Liverpool in his fourth appearance, at home to Bolton Wanderers in the Premier League on Saturday 27 August 2011, curling into the far corner – with his left peg – following fine approach-play by man-of-the-match Luis Suarez, Downing and Dirk Kuyt.

He tore away to the far Anfield Road corner-flag in delight, while the following Monday's *Guardian* described it as "as good as anything fashioned by any of the Liverpool sides Dalglish had been involved in."

He subsequently found the net against Chelsea that 2011/12 season and played in more fixtures, 48 out of 51, than any other Liverpool player. Every fan could see he gave everything. And he won his first medal, the League Cup, following the shootout victory over Cardiff City at Wembley.

Goodbye Kenny as boss. Hello Brendan Rodgers and uncertainty as to Henderson's future at the club. His response recalled Roy Keane's epithet: 44 appearances and five goals over 2012/13 including a crucial winner at Udinese in the Europa



**IN CAME FENWAY
SPORTS GROUP,
IN CAME KENNY
DALGLISH, AND
IN TIME IN CAME
A FRESH-FACED
20-YEAR-OLD FROM
SUNDERLAND
WITH ONE FULL
ENGLAND CAP**







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League, a half-volleyed thumper at home to Norwich City, a tenacious solo effort at Arsenal, and a brace in an emphatic 6-0 win at Newcastle United. He was also named England's Under-21 player of the year.

Season 2013/14 brought Henderson's 100th appearance for LFC, appropriately away to Sunderland, in September. Only a late dismissal at home to Manchester City denied him an ever-present personal record in a campaign which so nearly landed the Premier League title.

After appearing twice for England in the World Cup finals in Brazil, he was appointed Liverpool vice-captain in September 2014 and deputised for Steven Gerrard on 19 occasions during a season in which he missed just one Premier League match. Who can forget his goal against City at Anfield, another screamer from the edge of the box?

But it was tough, that post-Suarez, 2014/15 campaign, with FA Cup semi-final disappointment against Aston Villa, an excruciating end-of-season defeat at Stoke City and an unremarkable sixth-place finish.



IN HIS FIRST SEASON HE PLAYED IN MORE GAMES THAN ANY OTHER LIVERPOOL PLAYER, EVERY FAN COULD SEE HE GAVE EVERYTHING



With Gerrard now departed, Henderson, just turned 25, was appointed as the team's new skipper by Rodgers in July 2015. In his first captain's column in the programme, for the visit of Bournemouth on Monday 17 August, he called it "a tremendous honour for me and my family – leading the team out here at Anfield tonight is something I'll cherish forever."

He spoke frankly about the responsibility: "I've worked alongside some great men and captains during my career so far, with Stevie obviously being the most recent. I observed how all of those guys conducted themselves and tried to learn from each of them and the way they approached the role."

"But there is no point in me trying to copy anyone else. I have to be my own man and do things my way. Just as all players are different, so are all captains..."

"My attitude since I was a boy has always been about learning more and developing further and that's something I'll continue





trying to do until the very end of my career.

"Every time I take to the field I'll be giving my all to help the team achieve success."

Fate can be cruel. Fifty-two minutes into that Bournemouth game he left the field with a metatarsal fracture, to be replaced by Emre Can, and did not return till the end of November. By then there was a new man in charge.

"Jürgen Klopp has come in with his own ideas and a particular way that he wants to play," reflected the skipper in his column for the Europa League group game against Rubin Kazan on Thursday 22 October 2015.

"We saw some of that approach against Spurs on Saturday [Klopp's opener as Reds manager, a goalless draw in the capital], particularly the way we started the game so quickly. I think it almost caught them by surprise.

"While it would have been great to leave White Hart Lane with the points and we felt with a little bit more luck we could have won, it was still a decent result.

"Clearly the lads have dealt with everything that has happened really well and already started to take on board what the new boss wants. Naturally it will take some time until his methods fully kick in. But so far it's been positive and we believe

we can only get better from here."

Clearly Henderson yearned to strike a ball for Klopp in anger. "From my own point-of-view," he continued, "not being able to play recently due to injury has been hugely frustrating.

"I think this is the longest spell I've ever had on the sidelines. I always want to help the team and not being able to play feels like I'm unable to do my job properly."

A further spell out with torn knee ligaments meant he was limited to his lowest-ever number of appearances, 26 in total with only 17 in the Premier League that 2015/16 season as Liverpool settled for eighth position in the table.

There was an indication of what was to come in continental competition as Klopp guided the Reds to the Europa League final, with Jordan only just returned to fitness and watching the defeat to Sevilla from the bench.

Season 2016/17 saw Liverpool finish fourth to qualify for the Champions League, but another foot injury curtailed Henderson's season in February. He managed just the one goal, but what a strike: a spectacular, eye-of-the-needle effort from 25 yards at Chelsea in a 2-1 win.

In 2017/18 he made his highest number of appearances (41) in three seasons, captained the side on a memorable run to the



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Champions League final against Real Madrid in Kiev, played five times for England at the World Cup finals in Russia, and returned for training with Liverpool only six days before the new campaign began.

Burnout? Not a chance. If anything Jordan came further of age as captain in season 2018/19 as he signed a new long-term contract with the club – "There is no other place I'd rather play football" – and flourished in an advanced role behind new holding midfielder Fabinho.

Back to that goal at Southampton in April 2019 and Klopp's decision to introduce the skipper after half-time, further up the field. "I've seen him a lot like that," said the boss afterwards. "That's Jordan, that's him."

"When I came in and thought first about the team, Hendo was a box-to-box player. We made him a no6 and that's good. But we play different systems and I think it's helped him a lot to play in different positions."

Eight weeks later and a fortnight before his 29th birthday, Jordan Henderson tap-danced and shimmied full-circle on a warm Madrid night and did what Steven Gerrard had done in 2005: thrust the Champions League trophy high into the sky.

This season he's thrown the same celebratory shapes with the



UEFA Super Cup in Istanbul, having played in front of Fabinho and James Milner in the midfield starting-three; and then with the FIFA Club World Cup in Qatar, having starred in central defence, in the absence of the injured Virgil van Dijk, alongside Joe Gomez against Monterrey in the semi-final, before showing characteristic drive and determination in the middle of the park in the extra-time victory over Flamengo.

Former Reds defender and matchday programme columnist Gary Gillespie described him as “superb” in the back-four against the Mexicans.

“In the ‘old’ days,” he added, “there was maybe a feeling that Jordan just needed to have more belief in what he’s got in his locker, and perhaps the captaincy weighed heavily on his shoulders. But his performance levels now are consistently outstanding and he’s willing to be a little more aggressive with his passing.

“In short, Hendo does what Hendo does – and this Liverpool team is all the better for it.”

That was in the programme for the Premier League fixture against Wolverhampton Wanderers on Sunday 29 December 2019 – already Henderson’s 350th appearance for the club.

By the time the Reds welcomed Manchester United to Anfield



three weeks later they were 16 points clear at the top of the table, having made the best start to a league season in the history of the big five European leagues.

“I’ve never liked the idea of any other club being a benchmark for us,” wrote Hendo in his column, with a nod to the traditional significance of the United fixture. “We should never define ourselves by what others have done. For me, Liverpool’s benchmark is Liverpool. We don’t need anyone else’s achievements to drive us on.

“I want to be successful for Liverpool because of what it means to our fans. Not because it means we can claim we’ve outdone someone else, no matter how big the rivalry.”

He explained that “one of this team’s biggest strengths is that we set our own standards and our own expectations. We don’t need external motivation – it’s within us...”

“When the gaffer says we don’t talk about records in our dressing-room he’s spot-on. No one here is interested in anything other than winning the next match. Because, in the here-and-now, records are not important. The time for reflection will come later.”

When it does, every Reds fan will be hoping that another enduring image of Jordan Henderson with silverware in his hands – this time a rather large domestic trophy bedecked with red-and-white ribbons – will have become part of Liverpool FC’s modern, ongoing history.



“A UNIQUE VIEW OF MELWOOD AND ANFIELD”

Juhani Seppälä, Finland



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**WE ARE LIVERPOOL.
THIS MEANS MORE.**



FAB FUN AT MELWOOD

While the Reds have worked tirelessly on the training ground this season, there is always time for some fun. Here, Fabinho attempts to evade the clutches of his vice-captain James Milner during one drill at the club's West Derby training base, while Joel Matip and Rhian Brewster make a break for it on the flanks!



CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

It was a Christmas with a difference in 2019 as the Reds got into the festive season in Qatar, where they successfully won the FIFA Club World Cup for the first time. It was Liverpool's fourth attempt at being crowned champions of the world and this bunch of crackers gave fans the ultimate present when they defeated Flamengo after extra-time in the final in Doha.

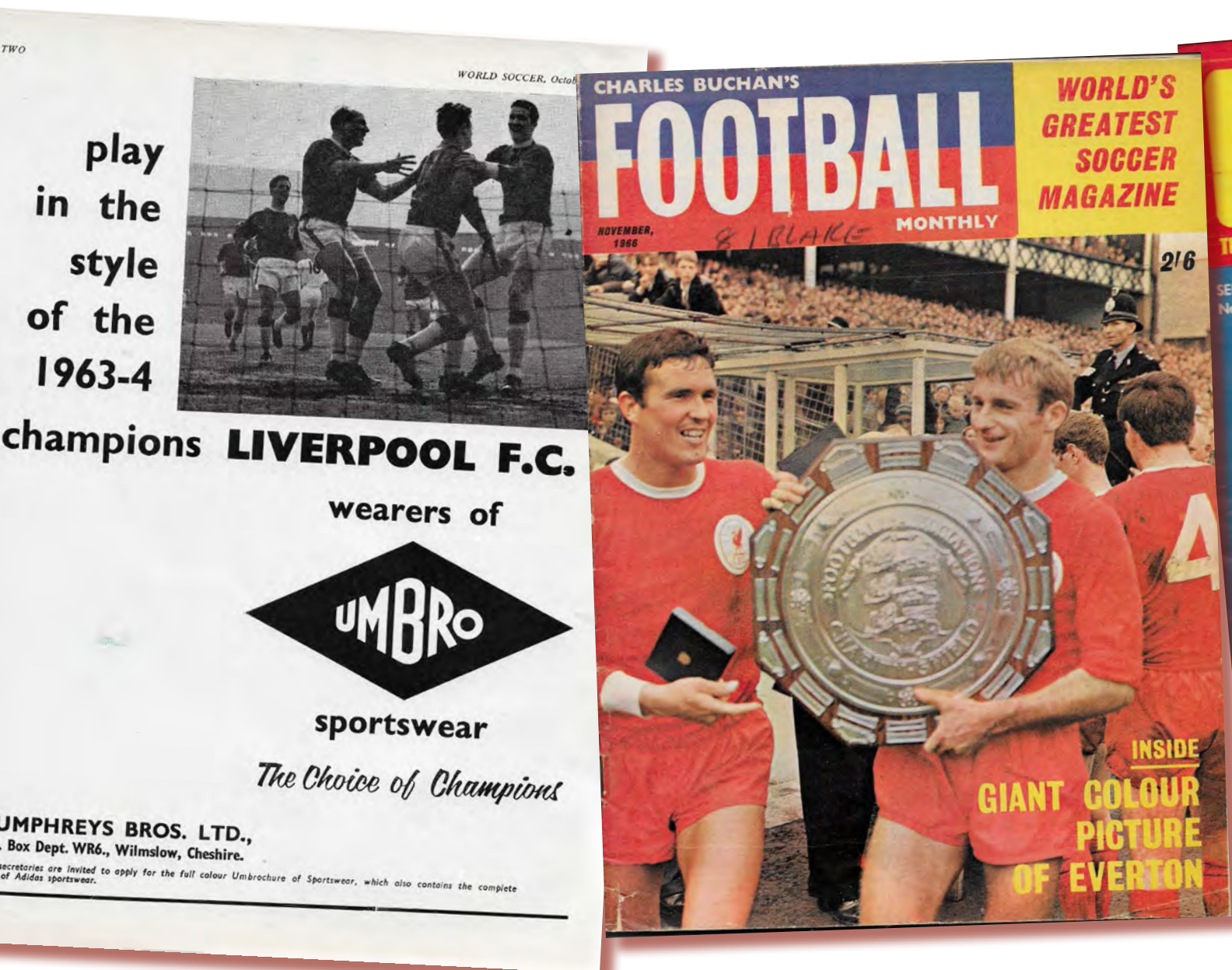




COVER STARS

PART ONE 1964-75

"Have we still got all those old football magazines from years ago, with the Liverpool bits in?" "Loft or garage, pull your finger out and have a look..."



Bottom-left is an advert from the inside-front cover of *World Soccer* magazine (still going strong) in October 1964. Umbro was founded by Harold and Wallace Humphreys in Wilmslow, Cheshire, in 1924 and it stood for Humphreys Brothers Clothing.

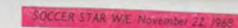
Near-left below shows Ron Yeats and Roger Hunt with the Charity Shield, on the November 1966 cover of *Charles Buchan's Football Monthly*, founded by a former captain of Sunderland, Arsenal and England.

Below it's Tommy Smith on the cover of *Goal* in September 1968, with a caption inside that says: "Not the most popular player in the game [!] but a great one to have on your side."

To the right, Reds wing-wizard Peter Thompson on the front of *Charles Buchan's* title, this time in September 1967; while below-right Ron Yeats and Tommy Lawrence run out for *Soccer Star*, a weekly publication which was incorporated into *World Soccer* in 1970.



Alun Evans
Liverpool



81 BLANK

1/6

ROGER HUNT
Liverpool

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An array of Liverpool covers stars from the 1960s – hands-up if you love the simple kit and Liver Bird club crest modelled by Alun Evans (left)? On the right, Shanks tells *Goal* in January 1969: “You don’t need great players to build a successful team – what you must aim for is a machine.” Far-right below is a March 1969 tribute in *Charles Buchan’s Football Monthly* to the Spion Kop: “formidable and fanatical, but knowledgeable and fair.”



DECEMBER 28, 1968

No. 21

Bobby Charlton's Diary

**IAN
ST. JOHN**
Liverpool

HALF-TIME REPORT

SPECIAL COLOUR SOUVENIR

LIVERPOOL 1968/69

Back row, left to right: Geoff Strong, Ray Clemence, Tommy Lawrence, Gerry Byrne. Centre: Bobby Graham, Tony Hateley (with Coventry), Peter Wall, Ian Ross, Alf Arrowsmith, Peter Thompson. Front: Ian Callaghan, Emyln Hughes, Roger Hunt, Ron Stanbury, Ian St. John, Tommy Smith, Chris Lawler. (Prov).

SHANKLY DOESN'T HIDE HIS SECRETS

BILL SHANKLY and Liverpool are defying Old Father Time with another determined bid for the championship. After two years without the F.A. Cup or the League championship trophy in the Anfield boardroom the Liverpool challenge is as strong as ever.

The bookmakers make them favourites for both this season. What makes it all the more remarkable is that Liverpool are back at the top with almost the same line-up that started a clean sweep six years ago with two League championships and an F.A. Cup win in successive seasons.

Only Emlyn Hughes and Alan Evans have come in for Willie Stevenson, now with Stoke, and Gordon Milne, who has moved on to Blackpool.

SIMPLE . . .

Most of the other managers in the country must be wondering how they do it. Shankly does not mind revealing his secret—he puts it all down to simplicity.

"You don't need great players to build a successful team," he says. "What you must aim for is a machine. And to do it you must play to the strengths of your players and try to disguise their weaknesses. That's common sense."

Shankly has his own standard to aim for, the one he set in the early sixties with the Liverpool side that first won the League championship under his direction, and reached the semi-final of the European Cup at the first attempt. "It's my opinion that was the best post-war team this country has had," he says with typical frankness.

"We are aiming for that standard now. Our tactics have not changed. We play the game simply. After all it is basically a simple game, despite all the new words and methods that have been introduced."

DIFFICULT . . .

"Whatever else may be happening in the world, football is still played with 11 men, with the same sized ball and on the same shaped pitches. Some people have tried to make the game difficult. I hear some words on television supposedly relating to football which I can't understand, and some I've never heard of before. Who invented the word 'work rate'? It means hard working, so why don't they say so?"

What are the secrets behind Liverpool's success? Shankly is full of admiration for the efforts of his senior players, Ron Yeats, Ian St. John and Roger Hunt. "They are playing with the enthusiasm of schoolboys, even after all these years, and have not lost their appetite for success. They will want to win something."

For Shankly it's the small things that count. "Our players know each other and play for each other, not for themselves."

"For example, why give Peter Thompson a long ball down the wing to chase when you know he likes a short pass at his feet? At the start of every game we try to let every player get a feel of the ball as early as possible. We don't expect him to do anything spectacular."



BILL SHANKLY

Bobby Charlton's TRIBUTE TO DERBY

GOAL

THE WORLD'S GREATEST SOCCER WEEKLY

FEBRUARY 15, 1969
No. 28
6d

PETER THOMPSON
Liverpool
and England



Manchester
City in
GIANT-SIZE COLOUR

FOCUS
ON
ARSENAL'S
BOB McNAB

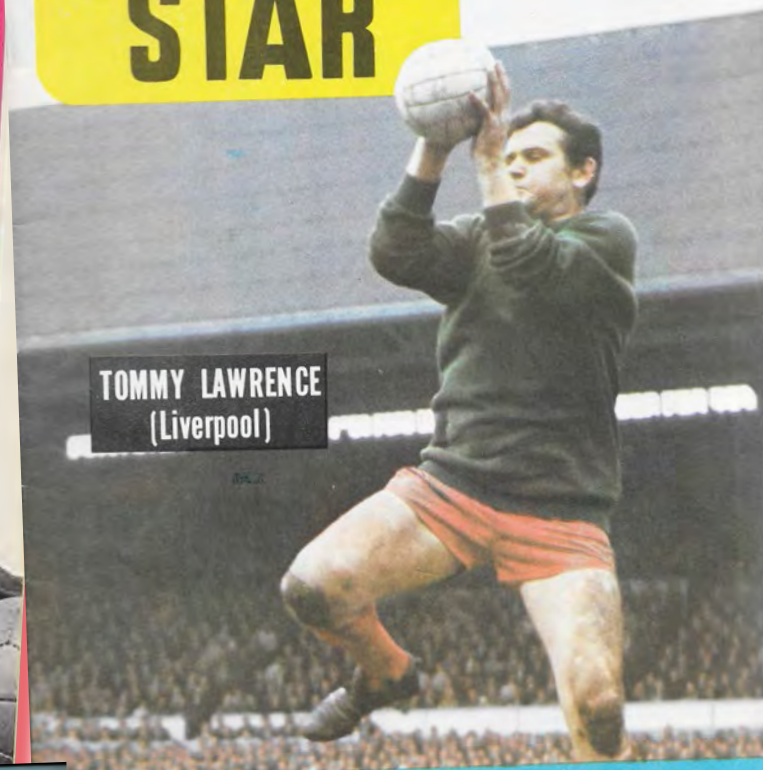
SOCCER STAR

SOCCER STAR W/E January 24, 1969

81 Blnk

1/6

TOMMY LAWRENCE
(Liverpool)



Raise FUNDS for your CLUB!

Five bob's worth at Anfield

KOP FANS

You're
the
tops...



It costs you five bob on the Kop at Anfield—which is cheap at the price if you don't mind the crush for you can watch champion football from these dizzy heights.

Looking back from the top of this notorious covered mound you can see on a clear day (which is not often) across Liverpool's rooftops to the Mersey itself.

Peering downwards through a sea of heads to the pitch far below is like watching high speed table football with the players no bigger than puppets.

But here on the Spion Kop (ready money, please, wack) you get not only football but passion and loyalty and membership of a vast leather-lunged brotherhood dedicated to Liverpool's cause.

If you didn't know much about football before, a couple of hours on the Kop will put you right. They KNOW what it's all about on the Kop as they do in Liverpool itself, always, for my money, England's most Soccer-conscious city.

The Kop will hold 24,000 fans. Not so long ago it packed in 28,000 in an Anfield gate of 61,000 which is something like the pre-war crowds they got before police restriction.

Liverpool's average League gate is around 47,000. Last season they attracted an overall 981,856 (average 46,755) so

Saturday afternoon I spent among the Kopites (Liverpool v. West Brom.) I rate them the tops.

They are, as I have said, knowledgeable, they are fair, never grudging the opposition applause for good football and rarely did they dissent from the referee's decision when it went against the home team.

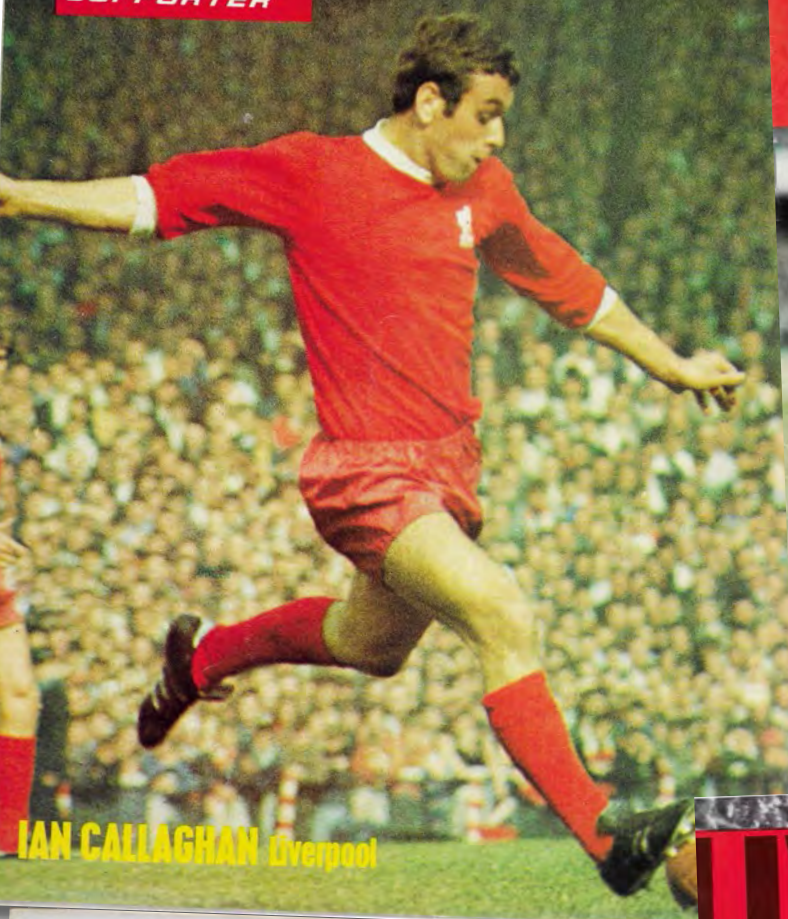
When they did it was to the tune of piercing whistling which assailed the neutral eardrums even more than their swelling roars of LIVER-POOL! LIVER-POOL! when the Reds were on the ball.

At least these fans knew the Laws which makes a pleasant change from the many (and we've all met them) who don't know offside from a pig's eyebrow and don't very much care.

You get all sorts on the Kop. Dockers and dustmen, milkmen and postmen (some still in uniform) the odd university student demonstrating loudly but peacefully that St. John couldn't have been offside because a defender had played him on. Plus plenty of Liverpudlians who looked as tough as old boots but were constrained in their watching and passed their fags round with the rest.

When the crowd swayed and lurched forwards and backwards—especially when Liverpool were attacking the Kop end—everyone pulled each other back

football
SUPPORTER



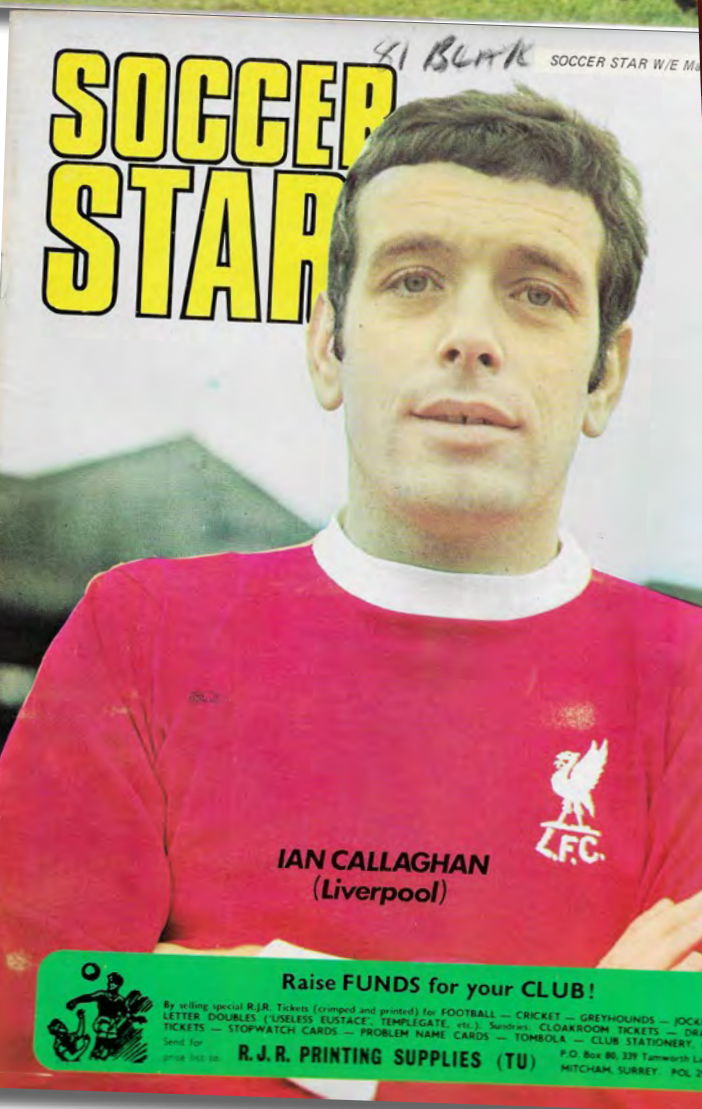
IAN CALLAGHAN (Liverpool)

JIMMY HILL'S
FOOTBALL
WEEKLY

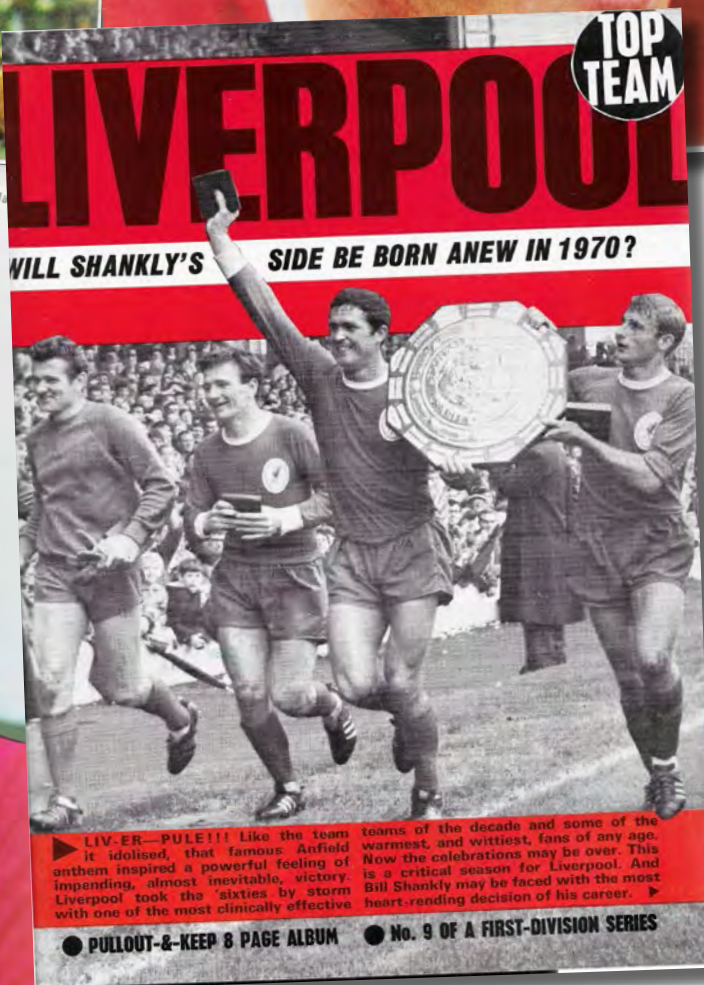
May 16, 1969 Vol 2 No 30 1s 6d



Emlyn Hughes
Liverpool



IAN CALLAGHAN
(Liverpool)



WILL SHANKLY'S SIDE BE BORN ANEW IN 1970?

► **LIV-ER-PULE!!!** Like the team it idolised, that famous Anfield anthem inspired a powerful feeling of impending, almost inevitable, victory. Liverpool took the 'sixties by storm' with one of the most clinically effective teams of the decade and some of the warmest, and wittiest, fans of any age. Now the celebrations may be over. This is a critical season for Liverpool. And Bill Shankly may be faced with the most heart-rending decision of his career. ►

● PULLOUT-&-KEEP 8 PAGE ALBUM ● No. 9 OF A FIRST-DIVISION SERIES

Top-left and bottom-left: Ian Callaghan on the back cover of *Football Supporter* – the 'official journal of the National Federation of Supporters Clubs' – in March 1969, and on the front of *Soccer Star* that same year.

Top-right it's Emlyn Hughes on the cover of *Jimmy Hill's Football Weekly* in May 1969. Jimmy Hill was a former player, TV presenter and footballing impresario, and to this day when fans of a certain age hear his name they tend to do very bad Bruce Forsyth impressions for some reason.



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I WAS
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AWAY!,”**

Tom Green, Reading

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**WE ARE LIVERPOOL.
THIS MEANS MORE.**

GOAL



RON YEATS
TOMMY LAWRENCE
Liverpool



BACK ROW: Geoff Strong, Gerry Byrne, Chris Lawler, Tommy Lawrence, Ray Clemence, Larry Lloyd, Ian Ross, Alex Lindsay.
FRONT ROW: Ian Callaghan, Alun Evans, Roger Hunt, Tommy Smith, Ron Yeats, Emyln Hughes, Ian St. John, Peter Thompson, Bobby Graham.

LIVERPOOL



SURPRISE and, perhaps, relief—those were the emotions with which Spurs fans greeted the news that Alun Evans, available again after suspension, had been omitted from the Liverpool side for the recent league visit to White Hart Lane.

The player named to wear the number nine shirt instead of the £100,000 starlet was unknown to most of the North Londoners.

On an afternoon when Liverpool was the central figure of the terrace discussions.

And the Tottenham crowd realised why Liverpool boss Bill Shankly had been happy to vote again for Graham while expensive Evans turned out for his reserves.

On an afternoon when Liverpool underlined that they are still a major force, none shone brighter than 24 years old Scottish stylist Graham, who had deputised for Evans in the two opening games.

Elegant and swift in motion, Graham fitted menacingly all the way across the front line. His control was immaculate, his composure calm and masterly, his reading of the game faultless.

For Mike England, rated one of the top centre-backs in the world, it was a nightmare occasion as he struggled desperately in a vain attempt to contain the ceaseless proddings of the slim, fair-haired Scot.

Even the fiercely partisan Spurs fans were moved to enthusiastic applause for Graham's exciting forays.

For the Londoners it was an eye-opener—the introduction to a new, powerful Anfield weapon.

For Graham, it was the big break-through after years in the shadows behind the Liverpool triumphs.

There have been moments when I felt I ought to try and get another club. But now I know I did

right by hanging on here," Graham told me.

Graham's career at Anfield has been studded with disappointments.

His talent was clearly evident when Liverpool snapped him up straight from his Motherwell school nine years ago.

And on his debut at the age of 18 he smashed a sensational hat-trick.

But it was rather a lucky game for me and I didn't really maintain top form," he recalled.

"Soon after, Liverpool bought Geoff Strong and introduced Tommy Smith as a defender wearing the number ten shirt. It meant there was no place in the first team for me."

As Liverpool marched on to championships in 1963-64 and 1965-66 under an F.A. Cup win in between, Graham was pegged in an understudy role.

Then, with the Liverpool star appearing to wane, it looked as though his chance had arrived at the start of last season when he was given preference over £95,000 Tony Hateley.

"I was doing well in the opening games but then I received a bad ankle injury," he said.

"It was so painful we thought it was broken but X-rays showed no fracture. It was so badly bruised that it kept me out for about ten games."

SPARKLE

When Graham returned to the side he soon sparked. But once again an ankle injury brought his challenge to a quick halt.

And then Manager Shankley rocked the soccer world by handing over £100,000 for Evans, the Wolves teenager who'd received little else but abuse from the Molineux crowd.

Evans, sharp and eager, was moulded for a similar role to Graham. And with England stars Roger Hunt, Ian Callaghan and

Peter Thompson also claiming front line spots there was clearly no room for Graham once more.

"I was sick when I heard about the Evans transfer," Bobby confessed. "Even though I was fit again it didn't look as though I was going to get a look in. A manager doesn't hand over such a colossal sum to play a man in the reserves."

CRITICAL

This was the critical moment in Graham's career. "I had to do some serious thinking," he said.

"And I was tempted to have a word with the boss to see if I could get a transfer. But the more I thought about it the more I realised that the one club I wanted to serve was Liverpool."

"It's something that grows on you at Anfield. You can't help being influenced by the enthusiasm of the boss and all the other players."

"I decided that no player could have a better challenge than to fight for a place in Liverpool's first team."

"The snag, of course, is that the standard is so high it's not purely a question of waiting for someone to go off form. They so rarely do. You have to decide whether you'd be content with an assured first team place in a weaker team or be prepared to battle to become a member of a top-class team like Liverpool."

"I came to the conclusion that there's more satisfaction in aiming for the top. And that's what I'm doing at Anfield."

Graham, who deputised for injured Roger Hunt at the end of last season, was rewarded when he was drafted into the first team at the start of this season.

And Shankly made it clear that it was not merely a stop-gap measure.

"The boss told me not to worry about the price he had paid for Alun Evans. He said it was up to me to show that I was worthy of a permanent place. If I played well

enough, I would stay in," said Graham.

"And that was fair enough by me. I was lucky to get the chance in this way. But it was reassuring to know that I wasn't just holding the fort, as it were, until Alun was available."

In the opening games, 24 years old Graham received glowing reports. Even so, he was worried by one aspect... until Shankley put him right.

"We scored nine goals in the first three games yet I didn't get one. As a man wearing the number nine shirt I thought this might go against me," he explained.

"But the boss soon put me at ease. He said he wouldn't care if I went 42 games without scoring... providing I played well and the team kept winning."

"And that's the great thing about Liverpool. It doesn't matter who gets the individual glory for the goals. It's the success of the team that means the most to all of us."

Even so, his 2 goals at Maine Road in Liverpool's fourth successive win were a great boost to his confidence.

Like the rest of his team-mates, Graham sharply raps any suggestion that the side is past its peak.

"Think about Ian St John and then say that," he challenges.

"It's true he's been around some time. But he's playing as well as ever. There's no-one in the country to top him in his position. And the goals he scored in the first two games were out of this world!"

Of his personal future, Graham says: "The season began wonderfully. I hope I can keep up my form and remain free from injury."

Compared with most other First Division forwards of his age, he has a lot to catch up on in terms of experience.

But Bobby Graham has already demonstrated that he has the verve and ability to become a top star... irrespective of what happens on the Anfield front in the next few months.

Phil Osborn talks to the young Scot who has emerged from the shadows to boost the Red's title bid

BOBBY BURSTS OUT!





PETER THOMPSON
LIVERPOOL

SOCCER STAR

JUNE 19th 1970
1s7d(8p)



PETER THOMPSON
Liverpool and England

Opposite-page left is a Reds team shot from October 1969 in *Football Supporter*, a time when Shankly's Liverpool were in transition (young Emlyn Hughes sits next to veteran St John, for instance), and below an interview in the same magazine the following November with forward Bobby Graham, struggling to play regularly: "No player could have a better challenge than to fight for a place in Liverpool's first team. The snag is that the standard is so high, it's not purely a question of waiting for someone to go off-form – they rarely do."

Below, a June 1970 feature in *Striker* (out every Monday, price 'ninepence') discussing Liverpool's search for new strikers to succeed Roger Hunt and Ian St John. "Their fanatical followers want honour and glory. They know that while Liverpool can continue in the nation's top six, always among the contenders, they are unlikely to win another major trophy until they find another tall, strong goalscorer." Enter John Toshack, the tall one, in November that year, and Kevin Keegan, the strong, explosively exciting one, the following August.

REBUILDING AN EMPIRE

LIVERPOOL manager Bill Shankly has already introduced eight new players in the first team in the season ended. His scouts have watched out every striker who is, or may be available for transfer.

The signs are that the Liverpool team 1970-71 will show more drastic changes than any team managed by Shankly in his 10-year spell at the club.

A break-up of a great team is a sad thing for supporters; it can be breaking for a manager. Bill Shankly has altered the structure of his 1965-66 team in stages but this year, sadly, he has to replace the lions.

Main striker, Roger Hunt, has gone to Bolton. Ian St John moved rarely later in the season. He moved to left back for the matches.

PLEMENCE in goal, and Larry Bird at centre half, seem basic to Liverpool. Tommy Smith and Emlyn Hughes are England reserves, even if Tommy still isn't a full cap. Chris Lawler, back, Ian Callaghan and John Toshack on the wings are "members" of the club. Bobby Graham, small but swift, and John Toshack, a valuable addition. But after that?

There has been a magnificent record of a dozen roles for Liverpool capable of holding a First Division place—but he is in the same class as Yeats and St John.

Lindsay still has enormous confidence in the future of two of his major players, Alun Evans and Bobby Paisley. Yet Evans is a player of undoubted talent and Lindsay says: "He will need to be patient to retain a per-



Liverpool's £100,000 capture from Wolves, Alun Evans—erratic, but a player of undoubted talent.



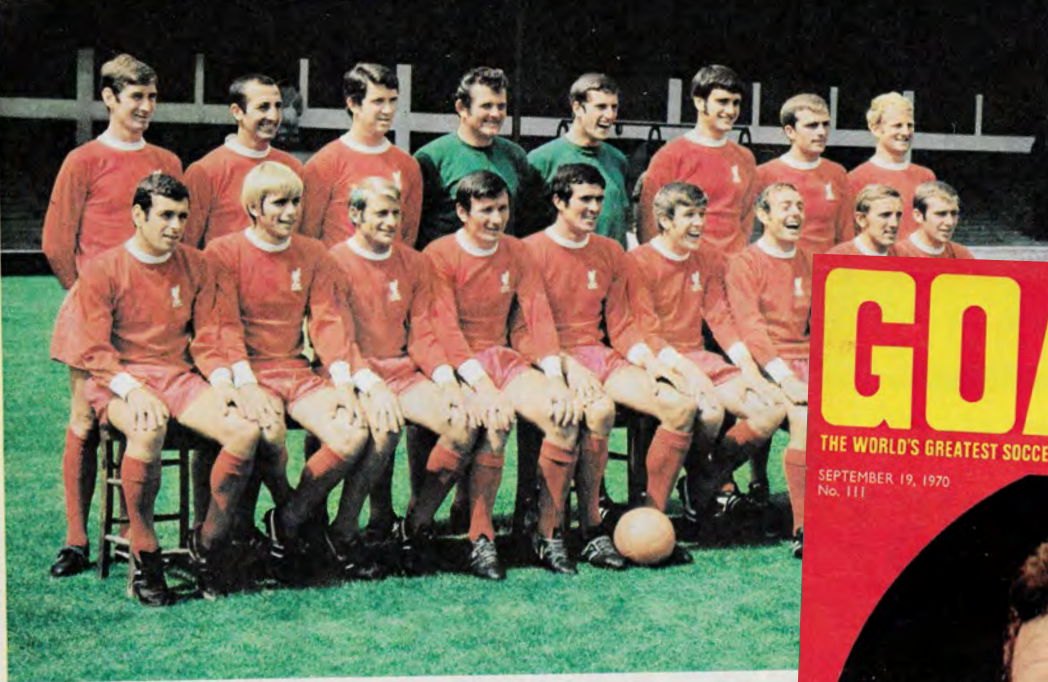
The iron man of Merseyside and stalwart of the Liverpool defence—Tommy Smith.

So too will Lindsay, a strong, powerful wing-half with Bury but too slow and indecisive for Anfield demands. He may yet quicken up to fill the gap at left back. On the fringe of the first team, waiting to claim an established place, are Doug Livermore, Ian Ross and Roy Evans.

YET the two players who have the biggest impact on Liverpool have hardly been mentioned. Steve Heighway, from amateur Skelmersdale, becomes a full professional in June. He was recruited by coach Tony Walters as a truly exciting player—perhaps another Roger Hunt.

The other is the 17-year-old football schoolboy John McLaughlin. Bill Shankly has said: "He is a midfield player of the seventies. The boy who can succeed St John. The manager's words on McLaughlin are echoed by those shrewd experienced judges Reuben Bennett, the chief coach, and chief trainer Bobby Paisley. Said Bobby: "John is a natural, a boy who can win the ball and use it with a great sense of timing and position."

All this means a comforting future for Liverpool's 45,000 fanatical followers. But they want more than comfort—they want honour and glory.



LIVERPOOL F.C.

Back row, l to r: Geoff Strong, Gerry Byrne (retired), Chris Lawler, Tommy Lawrence, Ray Clemence, Larry
Front row: Ian Callaghan, Alun Evans, Roger Hunt (now Bolton), Tommy Smith, Ron Yeats, Emyln Hughes, Ian St.

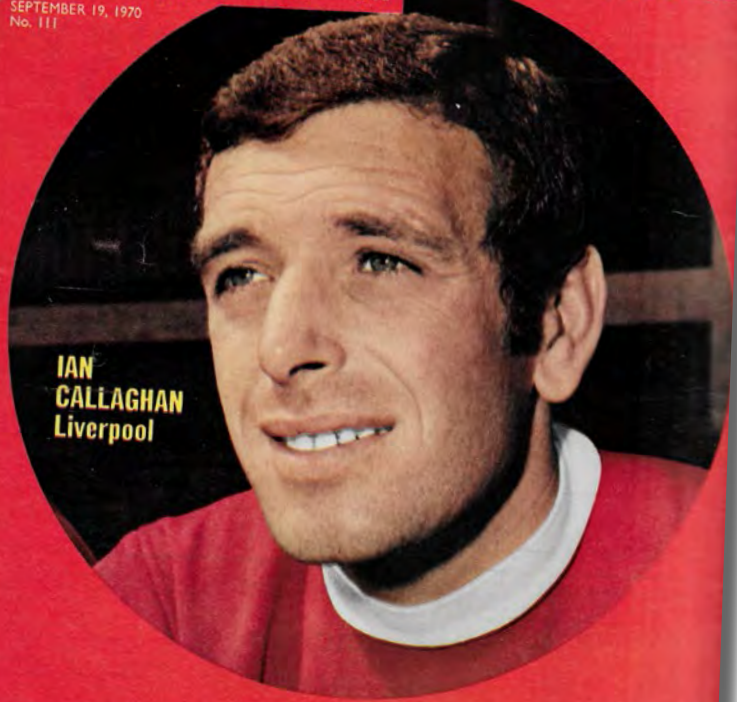
"Is our soccer overloaded?" asks *Charles Buchan's Football Monthly* in November 1970 as Alun Evans challenges for the ball on the cover. "The players are handsomely paid for doing their jobs," it muses, "but maybe soon there will be no close-season for them at all, what with this competition and that, and they will all become sick and tired of too much football before the league season has barely started. Even the £100-a-week men can have too much of it."

GOAL

THE WORLD'S GREATEST SOCCER WEEKLY 1s 6d

SEPTEMBER 19, 1970
No. 111

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CHARLES BUCHAN'S

FOOTBALL MONTHLY

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Is our
Soccer
overloaded?



LYNDON HUGHES
West Bromwich
ALUN EVANS
Liverpool

GOAL



Steve
Heighway
LIVERPOOL AND
REP. OF IRELAND

AN amateur with Cheshire League Skelmersdale United last season, Steve Heighway has made a fantastic impact on First Division football. He signed pro forms for Liverpool in the close season and quickly established himself in the Reds' first team squad. His chance for regular first team football came with injuries to Ian Callaghan and Bobby Graham. It was a chance he did not let slip. Now the Eire international is rated highly by the Anfield club and its critics.



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Ian Whiteley, CMM Events



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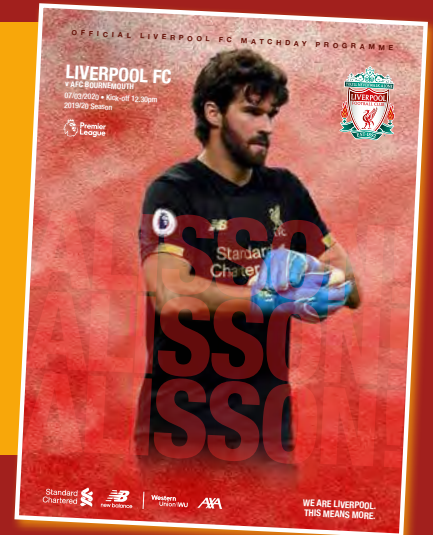
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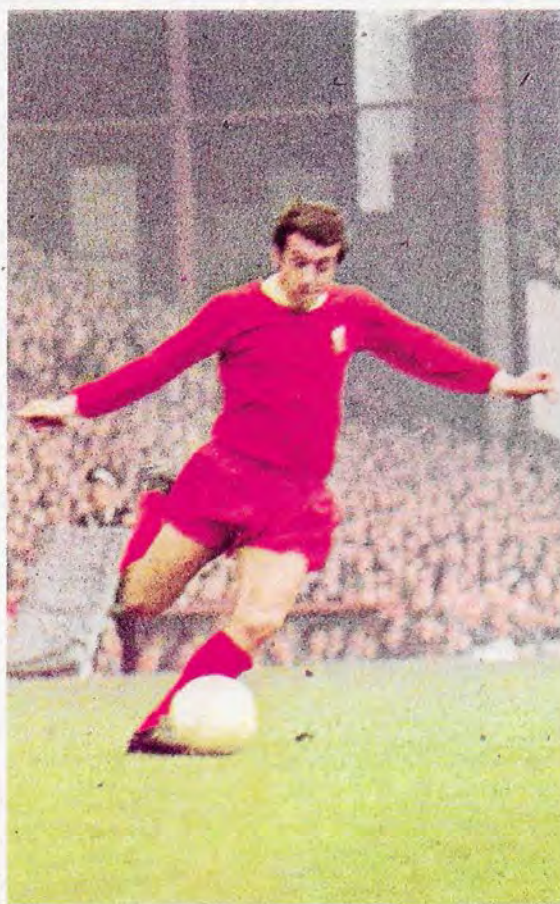
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**TEAM
SET**

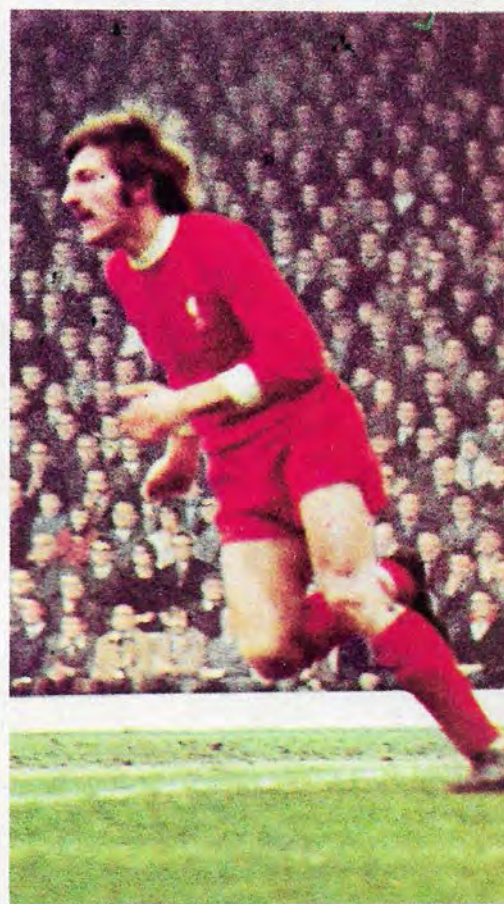
LIVERPOOL



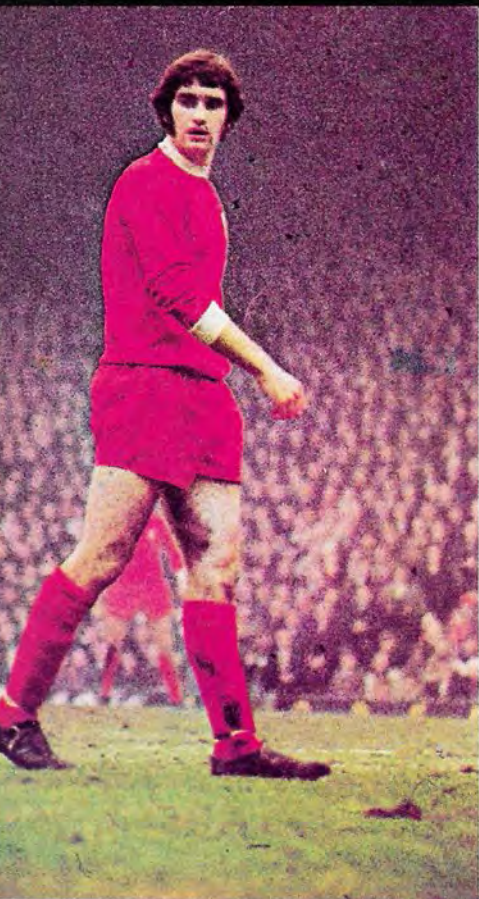
BRIAN HALL



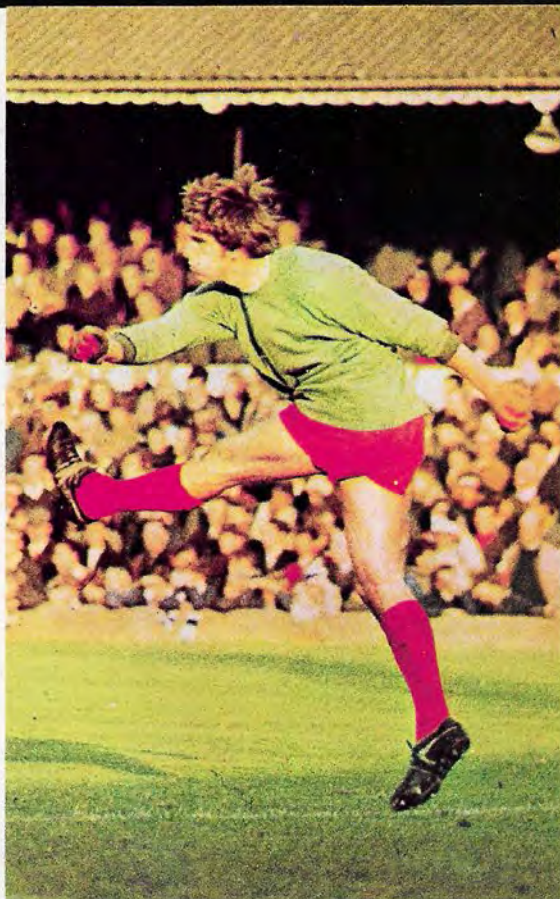
IAN CALLAGHAN



STEVE HEIGHWAY



LARRY LLOYD



RAY CLEMENCE



TOMMY SMITH

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TEAM SET

LIVERPOOL

STEVE HEIGHWAY

• Little over a year ago Steve Heighway was an unknown amateur with Skelmersdale United. Fresh from university, where he had graduated in politics and economics, Steve had hoped to crown the season with a trip to Wembley for the F.A. Amateur Cup final. But Skelmersdale were knocked out in the semi-final — yet Steve's dream trip to Wembley may not be long delayed. When Skelmersdale were knocked out, Bill Shankley signed Steve on amateur terms for Liverpool. In May he was given a full-time contract and, within weeks of the current season getting under way, Dublin-born Steve had not only won his first Division debut — he also gained his first full international cap for the Republic of Ireland. One milestone in his sensational rise to fame will always live with him — his first League goal. It came in the 51st minute of Liverpool's home game with Burnley in October and clinched the game at 2-0 for the Reds. Given normal luck Steve will have a long and highly successful career ahead of him. He's one of the cornerstones around whom Bill Shankley is building the new Liverpool.

Republic of Ireland 3 apts.
League record:
Liverpool 15 apts., 3 gls.



TOP TEAM SETS

TOMMY SMITH

• One of the most frightening sights in soccer for any attacking player is to glance up and see Tommy Smith beaming down on them for a tackle. He goes in like a tank and, once in possession, doesn't lightly concede superiority. Many a successful Liverpool attack has been set in motion by a telling Smith pass, his creative play in mid-field earning him youth and under-23 caps, but, surprisingly, not yet been given the chance to express himself in the full international eleven. Tommy has been with Liverpool since he was 15 and, in fact, he played in five reserve matches while still at that tender age. An injury to Gordon Milne gave him the chance to play in the First Division side against Birmingham in 1962/63 but it was to be two years before he got another opportunity — and this time he was in for keeps. Tommy has won League Championship and F.A. Cup winners' medals with the Reds and, though he has yet to gain a full cap, he has been included in Sir Alf Ramsey's full England squads. He still has many years ahead of him to satisfy his big ambition and, with Liverpool rising again, he is sure to remain under Ramsey's eye.

England under-23 10 apts., 2 gls.
League record:
Liverpool 248 apts., 23 gls.



TOP TEAM SETS

IAN CALLAGHAN

• Ian is one of the survivors of the magnificent Liverpool side which won so many honours in the 'sixties, Ian himself picking up two League Championships and one F.A. Cup winners' medals. He joined the Anfield groundstaff soon after leaving school and signed full-time when he was 17. He made his League debut in 1959/60 and won a regular place two years later when the Reds won the Second Division championship. First Division football hastened his rise to international status, Ian going into the under-23 side soon after his club gained promotion. He came into consideration for the full international team shortly before the 1966 World Cup and toured the continent on England's warm up tour. He won his first cap in Finland and, after being included in the 22-strong squad for the World Cup, he played in the game against France. Then he faded out of the international reckoning but has continued to shine consistently for his club. But, as his colleagues in the all-conquering Reds' side are disappearing one by one, Ian remains — playing as enthusiastically, and as effectively, as ever.

England 2 apts.
England under-23 4 apts.
League record:
Liverpool 364 apts., 39 gls.



TOP TEAM SETS

RAY CLEMENCE

• Ray Clemence, the forgotten man of Anfield, stepped out of the shadows this season to become an international star. Ray thought he was booked for instant stardom in 1965 when Liverpool paid £20,000 for him. But the brilliance of Scottish international Tommy Lawrence kept him in the reserves — even so, Sir Alf Ramsey had sufficient admiration for him to take the unprecedented step of picking a reserve-team player for the England under-23 side against Wales. Then he faded into apparent obscurity for almost three years. He made his first League appearance for Liverpool towards the end of last season when manager Shankley put his rebuilding plans into operation and he quickly replaced himself to the limbo of top class play. He was recalled to the under-23 team for the games with Sweden and Wales this season, suddenly springing as Peter Shilton's greatest rival for the England jersey when Gordon Banks relinquishes it. Indeed, Clemence was named second-choice keeper in front of Shilton for the European Football Championship tie in Malta.

England under-23 3 apts.
League record:
Scunthorpe 48 apts.
Liverpool 40 apts.



TOP TEAM SETS

BRIAN HALL

• Brian Hall is one of Liverpool's most recent home-produced stars to settle into First Division football. He did make a couple of appearances as substitute in 1968/69 but he had spent several months in the reserves until being recalled on a permanent basis this season. One of his biggest thrills so far was his debut in European soccer against Ferencváros in Budapest last September. His Anfield debut in European competition came a few weeks later when the Reds crushed Dinamo Bucharest 3-0. Brian was born in Glasgow but the team he supported as a boy was Preston North End, his hero being the great Tom Finney. Brian says that if he hadn't succeeded as a professional footballer he would have become a teacher. After serving the club as an amateur for a couple of years, Brian got his chance to join the professional ranks in July 1968. Manager Bill Shankley decided not to rush him, preferring him to gain confidence and maturity in the Central League team. Those two substitute appearances were planned to give Brian a taste of the big-match atmosphere — and the incentive to dedicate himself to the task of winning a senior place on merit.

League record:
Liverpool — 19 (2)



TOP TEAM SETS

LARRY LLOYD

• Sir Alf Ramsey's biggest problem position in the England team is centre-half. And he's already indicated that he may solve it by picking Larry Lloyd for the job. Larry, the new Anfield giant who superseded Ron Yeats, has rocketed into the international reckoning with three superb performances for the England under-23 players. This West Country lad has always his sights secretly fixed on the First Division. "But I never expected the chance to come so soon," he admitted. It is less than three years since he made his League debut in the Third Division with Bristol Rovers but it wasn't long before Bill Shankley received a tip-off and travelled down to watch him play. Rovers refused his first offer but he persisted in his interest for three months until finally both clubs agreed on a £50,000 fee. Larry spent most of last season in the reserves, getting a few senior games as the campaign drew to a close. Now, quite suddenly, he is clearly a most serious contender for the England number five shirt — one which would fit him very well.

England under-23 3 apts.
League record:
Bristol Rovers 13 apts., 1 gl.
Liverpool 34 apts.



TOP TEAM SETS

The second part of the 1970/71 LFC 'team set' from *Football Pictorial*, and below-left young Reds goalkeeper Ray Clemence appears on the cover of *Goal* magazine in April 1971.

Inside that same issue of *Goal* was the latest instalment of 'Bobby Charlton's Diary', in which the Manchester United star revealed he was at Old Trafford for the recent, titanic FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Everton.

"What a match that turned out to be: a classic semi of excitement, drama and electrifying atmosphere with Liverpool coming from behind to win," he wrote.

"A lot of people were of the opinion that Everton might have won if Brian Labone hadn't gone off with a knee injury just after the interval when they were a goal up. I didn't subscribe to that theory.

"I admit that both [Liverpool] goals came from down the middle and that had Labone been there, he might have stopped them. But I had the impression that even if Liverpool hadn't scored the way they did, they would have found another avenue to get through.

"The amount of pressure they put on Everton in the second half had to be seen to be believed. They simply never stopped working, running and chasing and it paid off for them in the end. If there's a fitter team than Liverpool in the Football League, I've yet to see them."

Statistics compiled up to end of January 1971

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FOR PAT JENNINGS

GOAL

THE WORLD'S GREATEST SOCCER WEEKLY

APRIL 10,
1971
No. 140
9p

Ray
Clemence
Liverpool

WHAT MAKES
ALAN WARBOYS
SO DIFFERENT?

MIKE KEEN
ON LUTON'S
TITLE CHANCES

SPECIAL TROPHY FOR YOUNG TEAMS!

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Football PICTORIAL



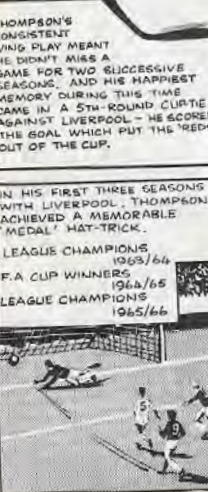
ALL CITY SECTION TEAM COLOUR PIC

FEATURES: GEORGE
GEORGE ARMSTRONG
ALL-TONY HATELEY

ASTLE TEAM SET
S ON THE WARP
BANK ON BATES!
OCK'S STORY



WHY SNUB SMITH?



Below: August 1972 and *Football Pictorial* hails the 20-year-old who, they believe, will spearhead a Shankly title push: "Liverpool's vast and unique support were never in any doubt as to the source of the long-awaited Anfield revival. Their hero was a dark little fireball called Kevin Keegan." In his debut season he scored 22 goals as the Reds clinched a League and UEFA Cup double.





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...any First Division manager or player which ground they are likely to come away from empty-handed and the answer almost certainly will be Anfield—the feared home of Bill Shankly's Liverpool Superstars.

To get a League point at Anfield is something special. To win is something to tell your grandchildren about and guaranteed to send the Kopites into a day of mourning.

What is it about Liverpool that makes them so consistent? What makes them tick? What is it like going to Anfield? Why are they going so well this year? We put these and other questions to five Soccer personalities.

THE BEST says Tom McAlister

TOM McALISTER, the young Sheffield United goalkeeper, faced Liverpool when they went on a five-goal Anfield spree.

McAlister said: "We held them for 30 minutes and then they hit them. They just kept coming forward. There was nothing we could do."

"They must win the championship. I can't see who can stop them. They have no weaknesses. From Chris Lawler at right-back they all seem to want to have a go at goal."

"And Shankly has a lot to do with it. Every manager tells his side they are the best in the world. At Liverpool they believe it. When you are talking to them, they believe they are the best team."

"But I don't have too many happy memories at Anfield. We lost 5-0 this year and my only other trip was with our reserves when we were beaten 5-0 as well."

FANTASTIC says Trevor Brooking

TREVOR BROOKING was in the West Ham side which gave Liverpool one of their hardest battles at Anfield this season. The Hammers went down 3-2 after holding a 2-1 lead.

Brooking said: "At the beginning of the season I think most First Division sides knew that Liverpool were going to be the team to beat."

"They had finished last season so well that it was obvious they were going to keep it up this year. They are so strong at the back—I think that is their tremendous asset."

"Away from home they never give away silly goals—while at Anfield they are virtually unbeatable. If you lose an early goal at Anfield you're really on the rack. Any team to win at Anfield must hold them initially and then rely on break-aways."

"They must be a good bet for the title. But it's great playing at Anfield. The atmosphere is fantastic."

HYPNOTIC says Henry Newton

HENRY NEWTON, Ever full-back, was in the side which lost 1-0 in what is always a soap-charged Anfield derby by Newton commented: "The work rate is fantastic. They move into a game more than any team I know. They just know what to do."

"But they keep going for them. They are such a good side they can play badly and get with it. They must have a chance of winning the title. destroy everything as the end of course they have got a strong front line."

"Take Kevin Keegan, done a hell of a lot for Liverpool and he was only playing Southampton a couple of weeks ago. When Liverpool go out there with them, his head is stamped on everything. I am sure he hypnotises before the start of each game."

WONDER says Ted Bates

TED BATES, manager Southampton side, was Shanks's men to a 1-3 the Dell.

Bates said: "They are the hardest team in the division at Anfield. No I don't think they must be the hardest team to beat on the world to beat on the world."

"Shankly has worked and yet it hasn't been affected by their form. hardly anybody left great team of the moment. The present team is good. Shankly has a vision superbly."

"The atmosphere is second to none. And must be favourite for the title."

KOP IS MAGNIFICENT says Joe Harvey

JOE HARVEY, manager of Newcastle. The Tynesiders also gave Liverpool a tough time at Anfield before going down, like West Ham, 3-2.

Harvey said: "We love playing at Anfield. There is something special about going there even if we nearly always lose."

"That Kop crowd is magnificent. They know their football and don't go just to have a good time. They go to watch football. They appreciate what the other team is doing."

"But there is one word of warning for Shankly. They are still in the League title. Add to that the F.A. Cup coming along soon and Shankly will have to make sure that his team don't blow out in the final run-in."

TOMMY SMITH the 'Iron-man' of Anfield

Rivals were quick to pay tribute to Liverpool's champions of 1972/73 (above and below), while Tommy Smith, a survivor from Bill Shankly's first great team, appeared on the February 1973 cover of *Football Monthly*, with that 'quarried' demeanour as Shanks once famously called it.

LIVERPOOL'S MILES OF MILES

They gave the fans ENTERTAINMENT on road to that title

Men on the goal target

	LEAGUE	F.A. CUP	LEAGUE CUP	UEFA CUP	TOTALS
Toshack	13	2	1	1	17
Keegan	13	2	5	2	20
Cornack	8	1	2	1	12
Burns	7	1	2	4	14
Hughes	7	2	3	12	22
Highway	6	2	2	10	20
Lindsay	4	1	1	5	11
Lawler	3	1	1	4	9
Callaghan	3	1	1	4	9
Lloyd	2	1	1	2	6
Hall	2	1	1	3	6
Smith	2	1	1	2	6
Opponents	2	1	1	2	6
Totals	72	3	14	16	105

OUR first time since 1968—after having finished second once and in third place twice, as well as going to Wembley in the F.A. Cup—Liverpool have won the championship of the First Division. The toughest title race of them all. And along the way this season, Bill Shankly's Anfield Reds have chalked up milestones after milestones as a team, and individually.

For Shankly, it is a proud moment, of course. But what gives the Liverpool manager just about the biggest kick is the fact that his team have survived the knocks, the bruises, the disappointments and the crises to give the fans ENTERTAINMENT.

Liverpool's team boss makes no bones about it. "The players have given us entertainment and that, as well as results. I think the entertainment part of the championship battle has been outstanding, from a Liverpool point of view."

No one knows the Liverpool supporters better than the Anfield team manager. "We have got to entertain our own people—and our players have made a tremendous attempt to do this," he declares. And although there has been the odd off-key game, no one could dispute Shankly's claim. For it is backed by the facts and figures which tell the story of Liverpool's title triumph.

Entertainment? Everyone agrees that goals were what gave the fans something to cheer about—and Liverpool have scored more than 100 goals this season, while conceding just about half that figure. Liverpool have set a new club record for victories, as well, because their 3-1 win over Norwich at Anfield on March 24 was their best in season 1968-69. . . . the last time they won the championship.

The goals have been spread around from No. 1 to No. 11. Liverpool have used 16 players this season, including two goalkeepers—and a dozen players have hit the net. Prominent among them have been midfield men Emlyn Hughes and Peter Cormack, sharing more than 20 goals, full-backs Chris Lawler and Alex Lindsay, and centre-half Larry Lloyd have got into the act as well.

Lawler, indeed, who played his 500th game for the club against Leeds on Easter Monday—he hasn't missed a first-team game through injury since September, 1965—became the top scorer of all the players at Anfield, when he took his overall tally for the club to 57, heading another long-serving Liverpoolian, Ian Callaghan, by one. Tommy Smith and Emlyn Hughes are both within sight of the half-century of goals for Liverpool, too.

Kevin Keegan scored Liverpool's 99th goal of the season—against West Bromwich—while playing his 99th game for the club. Phil Boerema got No. 100 against Coventry. In this tremendous season for the team, individual milestones have been marked. Alex Lindsay played his 100th League game; Steve Heighway played his 100th League game and took his total for Liverpool to more than 150. John Toshack also took his tally for games with Liverpool to near 100, and Ian Callaghan can now look forward to playing his 60th game for the Reds next season, for he needs only 10 more games or so to achieve this feat.

Liverpool won four of their first five games, then lost two in a row. But after that, they lost 18 matches before being beaten again. It was in their 26th game of the season—and by only mid-November—that they lost game No. 3 at Old Trafford. By then they had scored 21 goals and played five League Cup games and four European matches as well as battled through a hectic League programme.

After losing at Old Trafford, Liverpool went half a dozen more matches before going out of the League Cup to Tottenham—the eventual winners—in a replay at White Hart Lane. By then they had scored 63 goals and played 33 matches. . . . and it was still only December 6.

With typical Liverpool grit, the Reds shrugged off that disappointment—and they really had had visions of Wembley—and embarked on another 10-game run without defeat before losing 3-1 against Wolves at Molineux. That was the start of a dicey

spell, for they drew at Anfield in the F.A. Cup against Manchester City, and were out of that tournament in the replay at Maine Road . . . then lost at home to Arsenal, their hottest championship rivals at the time.

Liverpool had taken over at the top of the First Division on September 23, 1972—and when Arsenal won at Anfield, they were coupled from the leadership . . . for just a couple of weeks. The critics who said that Liverpool were feeling had to out their forces, for Shankly's team came back to force a 1-1 draw in the League game at Maine Road on February 17—their 48th game of the season. And that started another run of nine games before they were beaten at Birmingham.

In the meantime, they had done the double over Chelsea, Sheffield United, Stoke City, West Ham and their greatest rivals, Everton. And although they had gone out of the League Cup and the F.A. Cup, they were still fighting to get to the final of the UEFA Cup. Immediately after that defeat at Birmingham, Liverpool stormed into the UEFA Cup semi-final.

The Anfield match against West Bromwich brought only one goal. It was Liverpool's 99th of the season—and it came from the penalty spot. Keegan slugged the ball past John Osborne to obliterate the memories of his own and Tommy Smith's failure to beat Jennings at Anfield on March 31.

That was Liverpool's 29th game of the season, and they had disposed of teams such as Eintracht Frankfurt, A.E.K. Athens, Dynamo Berlin and Dynamo Dresden in the UEFA Cup, as well as most of their rivals in the League.

West Bromwich's defeat meant that the Tynesiders had still failed to win at Anfield since April, 1967. And if there was disappointment at the narrowness of Liverpool's victory margin, it was eased by the fact that Arsenal and Leeds had each dropped a point.

Liverpool were two ahead of Arsenal, with 33 in the bag. Leeds (two games in hand) were half a dozen points behind. And points against West Bromwich were the best—the most vital—we have got this season. Anything we get now can win the League and finish it off. And the Easter games, especially that look Leeds, clinched it.

The West Bromwich game took Liverpool's aggregate attendance for home matches to more than 898,000 . . . and the home games against Leeds and Leicester sent the League total over the million mark (1,010,169) for the second successive season. By February 10, in fact, the one-millionth spectator had passed through the Anfield turnstiles for all games during the season. And Liverpool's average attendance for home League matches, by the time Leeds visited Anfield on Easter Monday, already stood at more than 47,000.

Little wonder then that Bill Shankly is proud not only of his players and their achievements, but of the support the Anfield fans have shown for the team. Little wonder, too, that he makes the point with absolute conviction: "We have got to entertain our own people. . . . and I don't think there's been a season when there has been more entertainment."

Now Liverpool are the champions, and their fans are recalling the palmy days of the sixties when the Reds were winning the League, the F.A. Cup and the League again, in three successive years. Now, once more, after nine successive seasons in European competition, Liverpool are entering for the jackpot—the European Cup.

TOMMY SMITH . . . Within sight of a half-century of goals

STEVE HEIGHWAY . . . Past the 150 mark in first-team appearances

CHRIS LAWLER . . . Top scorer of all the first-team players at Anfield

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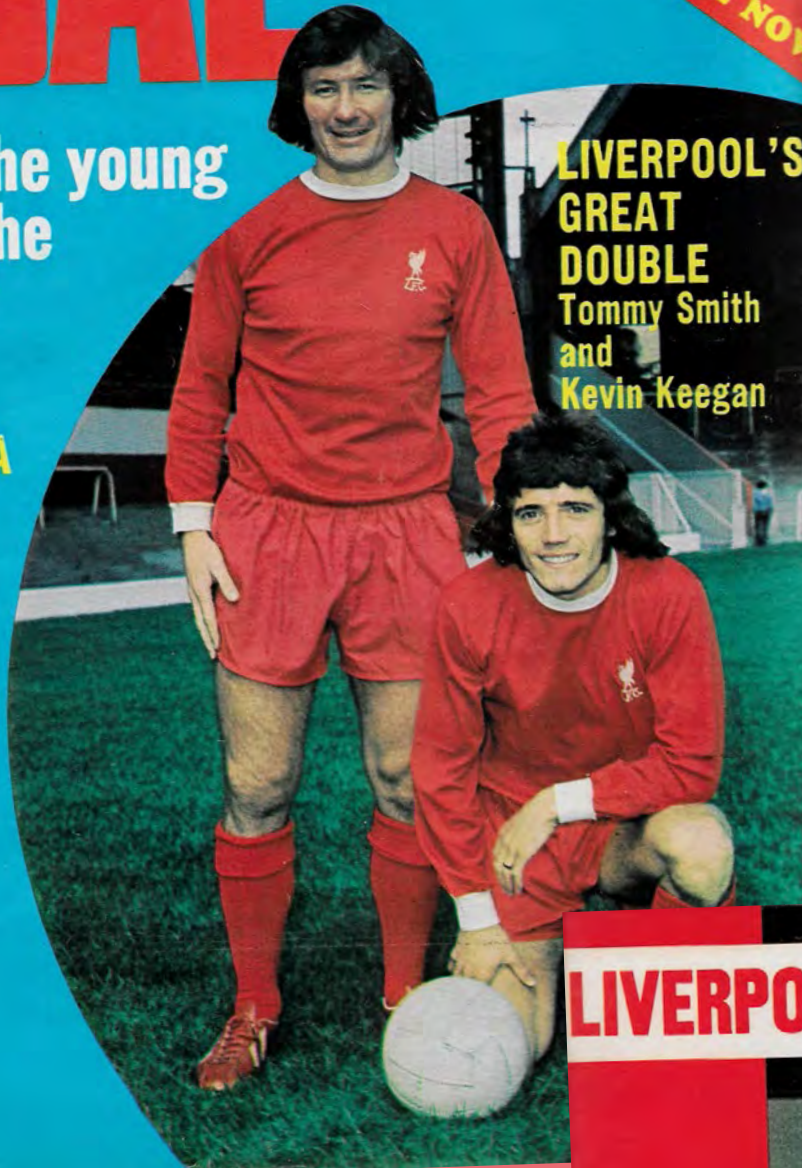
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Who is the young star of the season?

WHO ISN'T A COPY OF GEORGE BEST?

Who has learned to keep out of trouble?

GOAL



LIVERPOOL'S GREAT DOUBLE
Tommy Smith and Kevin Keegan

LIVERPOOL open their 1973-74 European Cup campaign next week on a visit to Luxembourg amateurs Jeunesse Esch... but let's get the record straight, as soon as Liverpool get into European competition that's the time the rest of the clubs get anxious.

Liverpool's consistency has become a byword in football, and Soccer experts from all over Europe have travelled to the training headquarters at Melwood to pick pointers for success at their own clubs. The Melwood gates are almost always open.

For years, Liverpool have given every indication of being able to dispose of most sides with an instant wave of a magic wand. Last season, at the end of the League game against West Bromwich, Steve Heighway was carried off the pitch injured, as the rest of the players were walking towards the tunnel.

When he reappeared, he shrugged off the injury as "a bit of a twist"... although it was far more than that, for he didn't sleep that Saturday night. But within a short time, he was back in action.

Liverpool have taken two matches a week in their stride—and their stride was certainly tested by those 66 matches last season, as it will be by the demands made

them—and they had finally triumphed as they had shrugged off the challenge of Arsenal and Leeds to win the League. Ian Callaghan makes the point during the 1960s, Liverpool had the League with several games to go; season the pressure was constant. "Vital games came on top of other... the League wasn't won almost the end, and to make matters certain, we needed a point from a match against Leicester."

"The whole thing, in the League, Europe, boiled up to a climax. It was played as many matches, and all were still on at the end. It was a gruelling season I've known, mentally and physically."

But "Cally", and Liverpool, still in space. So is there a secret formula for success or are Liverpool lucky? No magic secret, yet it isn't simply

WHY LIVERPOOL ARE THE TEAM ALL EUROPE FEAR

on them this season, with the battles in the League, the European Cup, the F.A. Cup and the League Cup.

Yet although the demands have grown over the years, Liverpool seemingly never descend to an overall level of performance, no matter what the game. Half-way through the 66th match of last season, when they were engaged in a back-to-the-wall fight against Borussia Moenchengladbach, three goals up from the first leg and two goals in the second leg of the UEFA Cup final, it wasn't Liverpool who cracked. From the bench, manager Bill Shankly told his men they were able to discern that it was Moenchengladbach who were, as he the German Press afterwards, "run-out of steam".

Liverpool's players themselves admitted the final that they were "whacked". They had stayed the pace until the referee blew his whistle for the last time. They had survived everything Gunter and his team-mates could hurl at

For Liverpool have kept up the pace when badly handicapped by injury. In 1972, they went to Wembley... they had lost three players with trouble and one with a broken leg.

Last season, they had a major player as Tommy Smith, Peter Cormack, Hughes and John Toshack out of injury—but they kept right on through two games a week. And Liverpool's manager went on record with a statement: "What we HAVE done is make a deep and penetrating study of many things, through the years, and have tabulated them so that, at any time, we can make an instant check on them."

"We possess such detailed information about our training and our players, we can check exactly what we were on the 60th day of training or playing from all this we can assess just how the best out of all our players."

"We have pooled ideas, studied what has gone before, used our common sense and worked out a system which is

Snapshots from *Goal* magazine during season 1973/74 with Liverpool firmly in the ascendancy and set to win a second FA Cup in what would be Bill Shankly's last season as boss.

'Meet the Champions in super colour' read the coverline in September 1973, and there in the centre-pages were Shanks and co in blood-red home kit and zip-up tops, along with the League championship trophy and UEFA Cup. Today the club's official online store stocks a 'Retro Shankly Track Jacket' inspired by this period.

The line-up in full, in case you didn't know... Back row: John Toshack, Ray Clemence, Frank Lane, Alec Lindsay, Kevin Keegan. Centre row: Chris Lawler, Steve Heighway, Phil Boersma, Larry Lloyd, Phil Thompson, Trevor Storton, Peter Cormack. Front row: Ian Callaghan, Emlyn Hughes, Bill Shankly (manager), Tommy Smith, Brian Hall.

LIVERPOOL

BACK ROW:

John Toshack
Ray Clemence
Frank Lane
Alec Lindsay
Kevin Keegan

CENTRE ROW:

Chris Lawler
Steve Heighway
Phil Boersma
Larry Lloyd
Phil Thompson
Trevor Storton
Peter Cormack

FRONT ROW:

Ian Callaghan
Emlyn Hughes
Bill Shankly
(manager)
Tommy Smith
Brian Hall



ENCH

indeed. And we're still working at it to see if we can improve our system. It's something we could have written a book about."

So Liverpool's secret, such as it is, stays a secret. Yet when people go to Melwood to look and to learn, they can see what they see, and it's up to them to assess it for themselves.

This season, when Liverpool will be going for the League and European Cup jackpot, and everyone else is striving to shoot them down, no one doubts that they will retain their characteristic consistency. And no one would dare to predict that they would crack up.

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CHRIS LAWLER ... last missed a European game in 1965



Bill Shankly's ability to blend the old and the new is one of the main reasons for Liverpool's title success — Kevin Keegan (right) and Ian Callaghan are perfect examples

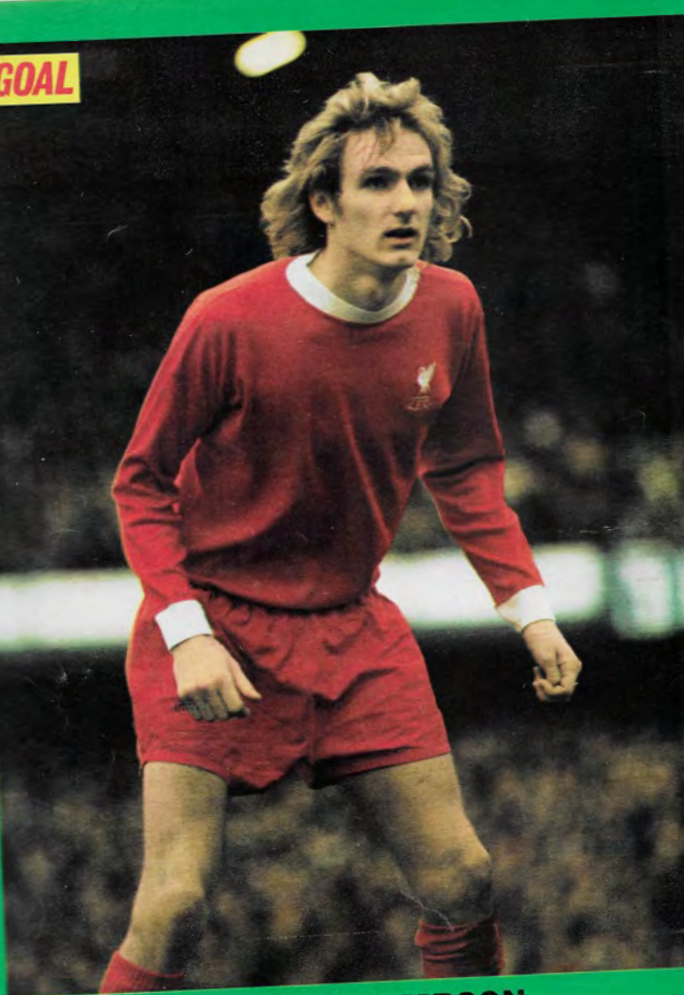


GOAL



**KENNY
DALGLISH**
Celtic

GOAL



PHIL THOMPSON
Liverpool

Goal devoted plenty of pre-match coverage to Liverpool's FA Cup final against Newcastle United in May 1974, one of Kevin Keegan's finest hours in red. Meanwhile the back cover of the January 1974 edition featured an emerging new star in Scotland, Kenny Dalglish.

THE BIG NAMES ON THE BIG GAMES

THE WORLD'S GREATEST SOCCER WEEKLY

GOAL

MAY 4, 1974 No. 292 10p



THE MEN WHO CAN SET WEMBLEY ALIGHT



Newcastle's
Malcolm Macdonald



Liverpool's
Kevin Keegan

by
CHRIS COLES



McDermott, a Newcastle ace whose dream was to be a Liverpool player

TERRY McDERMOTT, a self-confessed Liverpool supporter, admits that it took a bit of time to sink in. But now he's come to terms with the situation. "We're going to win the F.A. Cup at Wembley... we're going to beat Liverpool. I can't explain, but I've just got a feeling about the final on May 4."

Kirkby-born McDermott is the lad who used to go to watch Liverpool and lend his vocal support to the team managed by Bill Shankly. Where did he stand? "On the Kop, of course," he grins. "Yes, I was one of the Kopites... and all my family have been Liverpool supporters."

McDermott admits that he would have loved to play for Liverpool. "I'd still love to play for them now," he confesses, with a laugh. Then he becomes serious again. "But I've no regrets about having joined Newcastle. They're a fine club, and I've settled in well. As for going to Wembley... it's something I never imagined would happen when I joined Newcastle from Bury last season."

"But although Liverpool are a strong side, I believe that we've got more skill in our team, and I also feel that, in the end, skill will be the thing that matters. It's what will see us through. When we get going we can play some great stuff."

Predictions of a scoreline? "Well, as I say, I don't think there will be a lot of goals... say 2-1 or 3-0. For us, of course." And the likely match-winner? Terry McDermott grins again and says: "Who else but Malcolm Macdonald!"

McDermott has played three times against Liverpool, in his short career at St. James's Park. The last time was in February when Newcastle shared the points on their own ground. There were no goals that day which perhaps gives emphasis to McDermott's view that Wembley won't produce an avalanche.

The first encounter between Liverpool and Newcastle this season was at Anfield back in October, and Liverpool won an exciting and closely-contested game 2-1. Again, a narrow margin separated the teams, and Bill Shankly then said that Newcastle were the best team to have played at Anfield to date. It was a view Shankly

repeated more than once, at Liverpool and Newcastle edged their way towards Wembley, in the final game of the season. The show game of the F.A. Cup. At Anfield in October more than 45,000 people watched that game; at St. James's Park in February there were almost 42,000. At Wembley on May 4, there will be 100,000.

Will McDermott be afflicted by nerves on such an occasion? "No, crowds don't bother me," he says. "Once I get out on the park, and the game begins, I'm all right."

Will this one-time Liverpool fan have mixed emotions about playing against his former club? A slight hesitation, then: "When the game begins, I'll be doing my best for Newcastle, and playing for me. Which I believe we will do."

Where will this final leave all his relations, so far as loyalties go? "They'll be wanting Newcastle to win," says Terry. "No doubt about that."

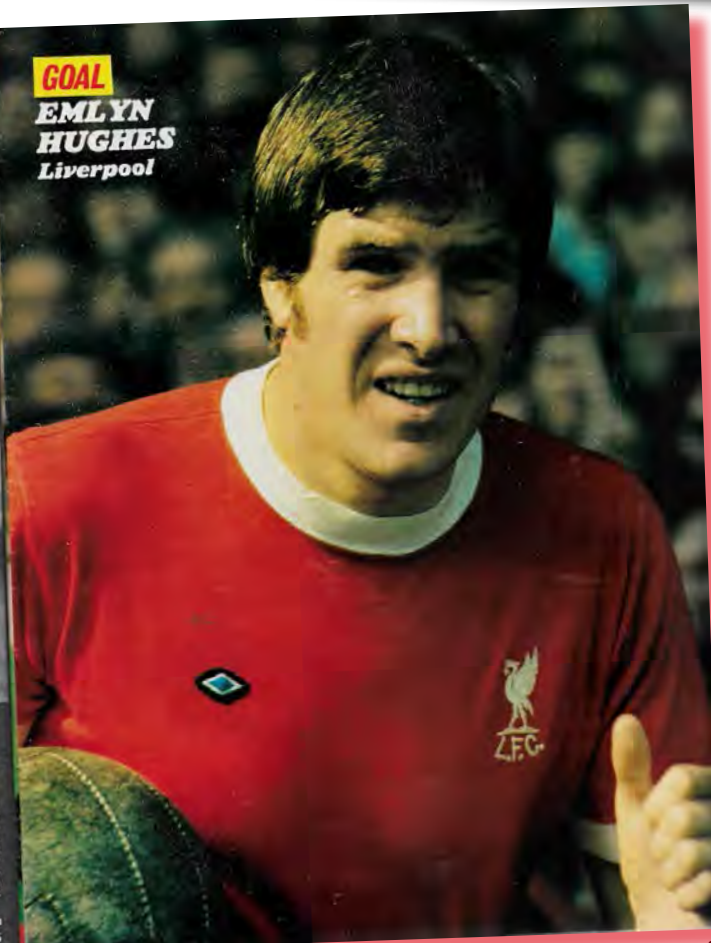
While McDermott looks forward to Wembley, another Newcastle player looks forward to next season. Since he left Preston for Newcastle in



TERRY McDERMOTT... playing against his old heroes

GOAL

EMLYN HUGHES
Liverpool



SEE YOU ALL SOON!





Liverpool FC Women manager Vicky Jepson urges supporters to stay safe and says the Reds will do everything to stay in the Barclays FA Women's Super League when football resumes →

The Reds are delighted to have set-piece expert Christie Murray available again



Vicky Jepson says Liverpool FC Women will be ready to give their all whenever the team returns to action.

With the Barclays FA Women's Super League currently suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Reds prop up the table after a 4-2 defeat at West Ham United on 22 February saw them drop into the division's single relegation position.

However, with five of the Reds' eight remaining fixtures scheduled to take place at home and one of the other games being a Merseyside derby at Everton, the boss says her squad has a real desire to ensure they stay among the elite of women's football in England.

"First and foremost everybody's health comes first and we hope that all Liverpool supporters are staying safe at this difficult time," says Vicky.

"Following medical advice Liverpool FC Women shut down our training base, with the players continuing their fitness programmes at home until it is safer for us to come back together. As much as we can't wait to play our next game, everyone's health and well-being is paramount.

"Of course we don't know right now when we will resume playing football, but whenever that is the girls will be giving everything to stay in this league. It won't be easy because we have games to play against some very good teams, but I firmly believe that we will stay in this league.

"The way we are looking at it, we have eight cup finals ahead of us."

One way or another it has been an extremely challenging season for Jepson and her squad.



"The whole campaign has been stop-start, to be honest," she admits. "We have had games off because of waterlogged pitches, another off because of Storm Ciara, the regular international breaks in the women's game and the suspension of the league.

"So it's been a tough season but we remain focused on finishing it as strongly as we possibly can once we get back out there on the grass."

The Reds' home for the remainder of the season is set to be Chester FC and prior to the decision to suspend the FA WSL, they had been familiarising themselves with the environment at the Deva Stadium.

"The facilities at Chester are very good and I think you could see how much the girls enjoyed playing in those surroundings when we took on Arsenal in February," continues Vicky.

"We lost that game 3-2 but the pleasing aspect was that we have looked like having a good goal-threat going forward in recent matches.

"Since Rachel Furness came in during the winter transfer-window, she's given us a fearless edge and I think we have more belief that we can score goals now.

"That Arsenal game was our first at Chester and I think everything about the way they accommodated us and looked after everything was just what we need.

"During the international break in late February and early March we played a couple of friendlies there which helped us become more familiar with playing on the pitch which will be important if it's to be our base for the remainder of the season."

Northern Ireland international Furness scored both Liverpool goals

Recent signing Rachel Furness has been a prolific scorer since signing in the winter window



in that subsequent loss to West Ham at Rush Green, benefiting from the expert delivery of another international midfielder, Christie Murray.

The Scot has had her injury problems to contend with this season but Jepson admits it will be a real bonus to be able to call upon her no10 during the run-in.

"I think Christie is our set-piece master," says the manager.

"There's nobody in our team that can deliver a dead-ball with the accuracy and quality that she can so consistently.

"Jade Bailey has been taking a lot of them for us and she's done well but it's been her first season taking set-plays. Christie is excellent with them and she regularly stays behind after training to practise them. We scored twice against West Ham from her quality into the box.

"She won three more caps as Scotland won the Pinatar Cup in Spain last month and it's great to see her getting back to full fitness again."

In the Reds' final session together before the coronavirus outbreak led to the campaign being halted, the squad welcomed back their international contingent.

Jepson and her staff showed the squad an international highlights package which included attacker Niamh Charles scoring for England Under-21s in a 2-0 win over France at St George's Park and vice-captain Niamh Fahey taking her cap-count for the Republic of Ireland to 90 in a 3-0 win away to Montenegro in a Euro 2021 qualifier.

One thing that can never be questioned about this Reds squad is the positive spirit they have engendered throughout the tough

Niamh Charles scored for England U21s v France at St George's Park last month



times they have faced this season. Vicky has led from the front in that respect and has always maintained a cheery outlook even when results have gone against her side.

"Whatever we have faced this season the girls have been very good and I've always tried to be positive myself. If I was negative and knocking them down, I don't think it would be of any use to them.

"The only time I've really lost my temper and had a go at them was at half-time of the West Ham game because the performance wasn't what we expect it to be but that's rare. The team knew that as full-time athletes and competitors that wasn't the standard we expect. But throughout the season there haven't been any cracks and the squad have always been focused and positive.

"That's what I stand for and it's in our DNA as the LFC football family and we're proud to represent that as LFC Women.

"Myself, the backroom staff and a number of the senior players have had to help one or two through this as they've never been in this kind of situation before where they are fighting to stay in the league.

"So we have always tried to make sure that we keep the environment positive and when we get the chance to resume we will be fighting to get the points we need to win this relegation battle.

"The team, staff and myself look forward to seeing all our fans again as soon as it is possible to do so. In the meantime, please look after yourselves and your families, follow the expert advice as much as you can, and reduce the risks to yourself and everyone around you."





GIVE THE BALL TO BOBBY

While the Champions League clash with Atletico Madrid ultimately ended in disappointment it did at least banish one of football's more unlikely runs. Astonishingly, Roberto Firmino had been only 20 days away from going a full year without a goal at Anfield. That crazy stat came to an end when the Brazilian, who has netted 10 goals away from home this season, struck early in extra-time to give Liverpool a 2-1 lead on aggregate before the Spanish side's late comeback.

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2019/20 Fixtures & Results

AUGUST		SCORE/KO	TV	SCORERS
Sun 04	Manchester City (CS, N)	1-1*	BT	Matip (pens: Shaqiri, Lallana, Chamberlain, Salah)
Fri 09	Norwich City (H)	4-1	Sky	Hanley (OG), Salah, Van Dijk, Origi
Wed 14	Chelsea (Super Cup, N)	2-2**	BT	Mane 2 (pens: Firmino, Fabinho, Origi, A-Arnold, Salah)
Sat 17	Southampton (A)	2-1		Mane, Firmino
Sat 24	Arsenal (H)	3-1	Sky	Matip, Salah 2 (1 pen)
Sat 31	Burnley (A)	3-0	Sky	Wood (OG), Mane, Firmino
SEPTEMBER				
Sat 14	Newcastle United (H)	3-1	BT	Mane 2, Salah
Tue 17	Napoli (UCL Matchday 1, A)	0-2	BT	
Sun 22	Chelsea (A)	2-1	Sky	Alexander-Arnold, Firmino
Wed 25	MK Dons (Carabao Cup 3, A)	2-0	Sky	Milner, Hoever
Sat 28	Sheffield United (A)	1-0	BT	Wijnaldum
OCTOBER				
Wed 02	Salzburg (UCL Matchday 2, H)	4-3	BT	Mane, Robertson, Salah 2
Sat 05	Leicester City (H)	2-1		Mane, Milner (pen)
Sun 20	Manchester United (A)	1-1	Sky	Lallana
Wed 23	Genk (UCL Matchday 3, A)	4-1	BT	Oxlade-Chamberlain 2, Mane, Salah
Sun 27	Tottenham Hotspur (H)	2-1	Sky	Henderson, Salah (pen)
Wed 30	Arsenal (Carabao Cup 4, H)	5-5**	Sky	Mustafi (OG), Milner (pen), Oxlade-Chamberlain, Origi 2 (pens: Milner, Lallana, Brewster, Origi, Jones)
NOVEMBER				
Sat 02	Aston Villa (A)	2-1		Robertson, Mane
Tue 05	Genk (UCL Matchday 4, H)	2-1	BT	Wijnaldum, Oxlade-Chamberlain
Sun 10	Manchester City (H)	3-1	Sky	Fabinho, Salah, Mane
Sat 23	Crystal Palace (A)	2-1		Mane, Firmino
Wed 27	Napoli (UCL Matchday 5, H)	1-1	BT	Lovren
Sat 30	Brighton (H)	2-1		Van Dijk 2
DECEMBER				
Wed 04	Everton (H)	5-2	AP	Origi 2, Shaqiri, Mane, Wijnaldum
Sat 07	Bournemouth (A)	3-0		Oxlade-Chamberlain, Keita, Salah
Tue 10	Salzburg (UCL Matchday 6, A)	2-0	BT	Keita, Mane, Salah
Sat 14	Watford (H)	2-0	BT	Salah 2
Tue 17	Aston Villa (Carabao Cup QF, A)	0-5	Sky	
Wed 18	Monterrey (CWC SF)	2-1	BBC	Keita, Firmino
Sat 21	Flamengo (CWF final)	1-0^	BBC	Firmino
Thu 26	Leicester City (A)	4-0	AP	Firmino 2, Milner (pen), Alexander-Arnold
Sun 29	Wolverhampton W (H)	1-0	Sky	Mane
JANUARY				
Thu 02	Sheffield United (H)	2-0	BT	Salah, Mane
Sun 05	Everton (FA Cup 3, H)	1-0	BBC	Jones
Sat 11	Tottenham Hotspur (A)	1-0	Sky	Firmino
Sun 19	Manchester United (H)	2-0	Sky	Van Dijk, Salah
Thu 23	Wolverhampton W (A)	2-1	BT	Henderson, Firmino
Sun 26	Shrewsbury Town (FA Cup 4, A)	2-2	BBC	Jones, Love (OG)
Wed 29	West Ham United (A)	2-0		Salah (pen), Oxlade-Chamberlain
FEBRUARY				
Sat 01	Southampton (H)	4-0		Oxlade-Chamberlain, Henderson, Salah 2
Tue 04	Shrewsbury Town (FA Cup 4Rep, H)	1-0		Williams (OG)
Sat 15	Norwich City (A)	1-0	Sky	Mane
Tue 18	Atletico Madrid (UCL R of 16 1)	0-1	BT	
Mon 24	West Ham United (H)	3-2	Sky	Wijnaldum, Salah, Mane
Sat 29	Watford (A)	0-3	Sky	
MARCH				
Tue 03	Chelsea (FA Cup 5, A)	0-2	BBC	
Sat 07	Bournemouth (H)	2-1	BT	Salah, Mane
Wed 11	Atletico Madrid (UCL R of 16 2)	2-3^	BT	Wijnaldum, Firmino
MAY				
Sat 02	Arsenal (A)	3pm		
Sat 09	Chelsea (H)	3pm		
Sun 17	Newcastle United (A)	3pm		
POSTPONED FIXTURES				
TBC	Everton (A)	TBC		
TBC	Crystal Palace (H)	TBC		
TBC	Manchester City (A)	TBC		
TBC	Aston Villa (H)	TBC		
TBC	Brighton (A)	TBC		
TBC	Burnley (H)	TBC		

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Last Word

NEIL MELLOR

Togetherness is one of LFC's biggest strengths and the players have been doing their bit

We are going through unprecedented times due to the Coronavirus outbreak and, like everybody else in society, it is something footballers are having to deal with.

Premier League footballers will be more fortunate than players from lower-league clubs in that most of them will have facilities at home to keep themselves ticking over and be able to remain in decent shape. The biggest problem Liverpool's players will have during this unheard-of break in the season is the mental side of having to stay at home and maintain social distancing.

They have put themselves into an unbelievable position in the Premier League, but now there is talk that the season may or may not finish.

Nobody knows what will transpire in the coming weeks and months, but as it stands there is no restart date for players to look forward to or work towards. That uncertainty, no matter what walk of life you are in, is difficult to deal with.

From the age of 16, players are used to a structure. That structure only ends when they finish their playing careers and while this situation is different – for instance they're still getting paid – this will be the first time they have lost that structure in their careers.

It's a new thing to have to deal with and some players will also have contracts coming to an end. They'll be wondering if they're staying at a club or moving on.

Liverpool's players will be thinking 'we've put everything into this season, surely we'll get the chance to finish the job?' But they'll also be thinking there remains a possibility the season could be scrapped.

While I don't agree with it, I have heard a few different people say it is possible that the season will be voided. When you think what an unbelievable season this Liverpool team have had, it feels unfair that there could be such an outcome. But in the grand scheme of things the health and safety of everybody – our families and friends – is the most important thing.

Personally I hope football does return this season and I think it will return. This group of Liverpool players deserve the reward of winning the Premier League title and the adulation that goes with it, but for now it's a case of staying safe. We've all got to do what is best for our friends and families for however long it takes and that applies to everyone from all walks of life.

When football does restart, the players will need a mini pre-season of perhaps a couple of weeks as nothing replicates being out there on the training pitch with each other. You can do all you want on a rowing-machine or a cross-trainer, but at the end of the day football is a team game and you need to work together.

One of Liverpool's biggest strengths under Jürgen Klopp is the togetherness of the team and while it has been reported that they are doing group-training sessions from home via video-link, they'll be keen to link up together again on the training pitch as soon as is allowed.

Ultimately Liverpool still only need two wins from nine remaining games to win the Premier League. When football does resume there will be a lot of excitement surrounding that, but also appreciation that the game we all love is back.

In the meantime, it's been good to see Liverpool players remaining connected with supporters using social media. There can be negativity around social media and the criticism players get on it, but one of the positives of Instagram, Twitter, TikTok and other platforms is that players can still engage with the supporters at such an extraordinary time.

Certain players have been doing their bit to help supporters still feel part of things. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and James Milner (right) in particular have been very funny in some of their videos and at times like this, when everyone is feeling a bit down, it's nice to get a little pick-me-up from some of the players.

The big pick-me-up will come when we see them all playing for Liverpool again.

But for now we must stay home, stay safe and be patient.



• Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33



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SIMON BELL (17)
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PAUL DAVID BRADY (21)
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PETER ANDREW BURKETT (24)
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